United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1744
5 October 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Zaire says preventive diplomacy could have averted Rwanda tragedy; Malawi, Mauritius, Malaysia, Philippines and United Arab Emirates also speak in General Assembly's general debate.

- Secretary-General expresses grave concern at deterioration of humanitarian conditions in Liberia; calls on warring factions to create conditions for resumption of relief operations.

- Cape Verde says true collective security requires shared progress towards development; Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Paraguay, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Albania among other speakers in general debate yesterday.

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Kengo Wa Dondo, Prime Minister of the Transitional Government of Zaire, told the General Assembly today that the world was faced with a triple crisis in politics, economics and human society. Of all the answers suggested, preventive diplomacy was the most effective. Many current conflicts could have been avoided had the international community been involved at an early stage. Preventive diplomacy should have been used in the case of Rwanda. The tragedy would not have occurred if the parties had respected the Arusha agreements. The international community could have ensured respect for the agreements and placed troops on the ground to prevent the carnage which ensued.

The flood of refugees from Rwanda had overwhelmed neighbouring countries, he continued. The tragedy had occurred at the time of the investiture of a new Government in Zaire, and it had only been able to apply stopgap measures. The return of refugees was being thwarted by various factors, including intimidation by the militia and the old military masters of Rwanda. Efforts by the new Government in Kigali to reassure the refugees were inadequate. The world must help Hutus and Tutsis to return to Rwanda to live in harmony. There must be power-sharing between the parties, the establisment of a multi-ethnic army, guarantees of safe return for refugees and assistance to countries of asylum and the country of origin.

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For information media--not an official record

President Bakili Muluzi of Malawi said human rights and fundamental freedoms could not be enjoyed where people lived in conditions of economic desperation. As the majority of its people lived in extreme poverty, Malawi had given poverty alleviation top priority. External debt, drought, HIV/AIDS and an influx of refugees had all contributed to the country's difficult situation. He expressed confidence that Malawi's partners in development would assist in efforts to improve living standards, and appealed for the country's debts to be written off. Any assistance given to Malawi would be used for the intended purpose. He invited the private and public sectors to invest in the country, citing opportunities in such areas as tourism, mining and banking.

Implementation of the Agenda for Development deserved the support of the international financial and donor communities, he continued. Persistent problem areas -- debt servicing, access to technology for development, rapid population growth, and social development issues -- must be tackled. The priorities outlined in the Agenda and the programme of action outlined in the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were critical to the continent's development. Despite its shortcomings, the United Nations remained a viable option for addressing the political and socio-economic issues that confronted the world today. Through the Organization, the world could become a better place.

Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius said the United Nations system should be overhauled, with a view to improving transparency and taking into consideration the aspirations of developing countries. The Security Council should be made more effective and more representative. Developing countries had very different concerns from the developed ones, and had a right to representation on the Council. Africa and Latin America should have permanent seats. Council decisions should be reached by consensus, although the veto system should be maintained for some time.

Africa needed a clear vision of hope which would ensure its integration into international economic and trading systems, he went on to say. Its marginalization, deliberate or accidental, must be ended and reversed. In Mauritius, rapid economic strides had been accompanied by consistent social and cultural progress which strengthened democracy. Political stability, good governance, and respect for basic human rights and freedoms were prerequisites for economic development. It was the duty of the international community to ensure progress. In a time of the survival of the fittest and the most competitive, the salvation of the weak and small economies depended on the successful implementation of regional cooperation and integration programmes. The international community should support that process, especially in Africa.

Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, said development was the only secure foundation for global peace and security. The origins of conflicts were often buried deep in socio-economic deprivations and disparities, yet the promises made at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) remained unfulfilled. Official development assistance (ODA) should be increased to reach the targets set. The developed countries should share the responsibility for protecting

tropical forests, which belonged to the whole world. While Malaysia shared the fundamental objectives of the recent International Conference on Population and Development, it deplored the attempt to impose views without regard to the values of others.

The United Nations was unable to deal effectively with critical global issues, he said. The Security Council remained paralysed on the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was unable to implement its own resolutions. The Council was ready to plunge into the Persian Gulf crisis a few years ago, but now demonstrated political timidity and a clear lack of resolve. It should be reformed on the basis of equitable geographical representation and be made more accountable to the United Nations membership. The issue was not one of enlarging the permanent membership of the Council, but of enhanced participation. The first step must be to increase the number of non-permanent members.

Roberto Romulo, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, said economic development did not necessarily mean a better life for the individual citizen. Economic growth could not be sustained if the individual were not mobilized and empowered to take an active part in the development process. Growth was meaningless to the individual who did not share in its benefits or whose community was destroyed by it. A society could not find fulfilment in growth if it did not take adequate care of women, children, ethnic minorities, the handicapped and the homeless. In the Philippines, peace and national reconciliation had been secured through a process that included discussion with dissident elements and a generous amnesty. The system of democratic pluralism had been restored. Fundamental rights and freedoms were being safeguarded, and people were being empowered.

The United Nations should agree on a set of guiding principles for the establishment and conduct of peace-keeping operations, which were growing in number and complexity, he went on to say. While the composition and methods of the Security Council must reflect the realities of political and economic power, imbalances must be redressed. The general membership of the United Nations must participate in decision-making. That would require enlarging the Council's membership and reforming its methods and procedures. Its membership should be geographically balanced, with an increase in the representation of developing countries. The Council must also improve the transparency of its working and decision-making process.

Rashid Abdullah Al-Noaimi, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, said his country's policy was based on respect for the sovereignty and independence of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, and peaceful coexistence. It was ready to settle, by peaceful means, a dispute over the islands of Lesser Tunb, Greater Tunb and Abu Musa, which had been occupied by Iran in 1971. As Iran had not responded to all the initiatives by the United Arab Emirates, his Government had declared its readiness to resort to the International Court of Justice and had pledged to fully accept its Judgment.

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The Iraqi regime must meet its legal and political obligations to Kuwait, as stipulated in Security Council resolutions, he continued. The Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the agreements on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks were the first real progress in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Progress was also needed on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks based on the principle of land for peace. However, the United Arab Emirates was deeply concerned over Israel's acquisition of an immense nuclear capability which constituted a constant threat to the security of the region. It was also concerned about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The international community and the Security Council should reconsider their procedures for dealing with that question. The Council must take firmer measures against the Serbian aggressor and must lift the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed grave concern over the deterioration of humanitarian conditions in Liberia. He called on the warring factions to end the wanton destruction of life and property, and to create conditions for the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to all Liberians in need.

Intense fighting erupted in many parts of Liberia early last month, particularly in the central region around the town of Gbarnga. More than 100,000 people have been displaced, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has registered 55,000 new arrivals in Guinea and 40,000 in Côte d'Ivoire. Some 700,000 people had already been exiled since the Liberian civil war started in 1989.

While those crossing the border will receive emergency assistance from the UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP), thousands of civilians trapped inside Liberia cannot be reached. The intense fighting, disregard of the security of humanitarian workers and seizure of their vehicles, equipment and relief stocks have forced the suspension of humanitarian assistance outside Monrovia and its environs.

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Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Cape Verde, told the General Assembly yesterday that the state of peace and development was less than satisfactory. Conflicts had proliferated, while conditions of poverty had expanded. There was an overall lack of vision, cooperation and tolerance. The most complex challenges facing the international community touched on the issue of development. True collective security hinged on shared progress in justice and equality. The desired level of development could not be limited by narrow-minded realism -- the United Nations must shoulder a very specific responsibility and role in that regard.

Under the Charter, the United Nations had solemnly committed itself to work to build a better world, he said. The process of reforming the Organization was under way, and there should be further progress during the

current session of the General Assembly. Strengthening the United Nations required democratization, maintaining a better geographic balance and protecting the interests of smaller and developing States. Cape Verde welcomed the candidacy of Brazil for membership of the Security Council. Greater cooperation with regional organizations was necessary. Success in preventing conflicts would be achieved by addressing their underlying causes -- primarily conditions that gave rise to poverty. All populations should be guaranteed a basic quality of life.

Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister, Abdulaziz Hafizovich Kamilov, said yesterday that his country was undergoing profound transformations aimed at forming a socially oriented market economy. Laws had been adopted to promote entrepreneurship and privatization, and a favourable environment had been created for potential foreign investors. The most important process of introducing a national currency had been recently completed. The number of political parties and social movements was gradually increasing, and Parliamentary elections would be held in December.

Settlement of the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan was a matter for the internal policy of those two countries, he continued. However, they were both neighbours of Uzbekistan and there was a threat of a regional escalation of the conflict. Uzbekistan regarded the situation with great concern and was interested in a speedy settlement by political and diplomatic means. He noted that initiatives in the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" could expand the spectrum of military-political measures to stabilize the situation in regions of conflict. Those measures should be used in compliance with requests by the governments concerned, or with the consent of the conflicting parties. About 15 States had already expressed interest in participating in the permanent seminar proposed by President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan on the issue of security in Asia, under the auspices of the United Nations Mission in Tashkent.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, expressed appreciation for the important role played by the United Nations following the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. The Iraqi Government continued to defy international law and tried to deceive international public opinion through limited implementation of requirements pertaining to the weapons of mass destruction. Iraq had not yet met its obligations to recognize the State of Kuwait and its borders and to release all detainees. He hoped that Iraq's participation in the Committee dealing with prisoners and detainees was a genuine attempt to settle that issue and not just a symbolic move to appease international public opinion. Iraq was also expected to pay full compensation for all the damage caused by its aggression.

The States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) actively participated in the Middle East peace process and contributed to the bilateral talks between Arab States and Israel and to the multilateral talks, he said. The international community and the co-sponsors of the peace process between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) must ensure that Israel placed no obstacles in the path of the Palestinian National Authority as it assumed its responsibilities. The GCC States welcomed the progress achieved

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in Jordanian-Israeli relations, but were concerned at the lack of progress in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Luis Maria Ramirez Boettner, Paraguay's Minister for Foreign Affair, said democratization of his country was being consolidated. Paraguay was a pluralistic society dedicated to the protection of human rights, and would never move away from the democratic ideal. However, conditions in the international system of trade and credit must change if it were to successfully address all economic and social problems. Paraguay had been following a policy of free trade and a free exchange rate. External debt had been reduced, and the country had offered a series of tax incentives for domestic and foreign investment. It now offered some of the best investment terms in Latin America.

The MERCOSUR (Southern Cone Common Market) had recently taken a decisive step forward by establishing a common external tariff for its members, he continued. The upcoming Summit of Nations of the Americas, convened by the President of the United States, would be of great significance in the political and trade arenas. Paraguay had done much to develop ties with the international community and to break out of the isolation it had known before 1989. However, it faced a structural limitation -- its lack of a coastline. In compensation, it was at the centre of the MERCOSUR trade area. He expressed hope for strong political reforms in Cuba, reflecting the will of the people, along with the lifting of the embargo against that country.

Ablasse Ouedraogo, Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, said Africa was shaken by upheaval and crisis which needed attention. The tragedy in Rwanda demonstrated the international community's limits. The United Nations had been forced to reassess its decision to withdraw forces from that country and to return. Without an active policy of national reconciliation, it was difficult to see calm and stability in Rwanda. Fatigue had taken over the Security Council regarding the questions of Liberia and Somalia, and the international community might abandon them. While peace could not be imposed, the President of Burkina Faso was currently engaged in subregional negotiations on behalf of those countries.

The global economy had experienced a recession that had brutally affected the developing countries, he said. The improvement of the economic climate of developing countries hinged on such steps as the elimination of tariff barriers and the transfer of technology. Africa was in a critical condition, but the international community had done nothing concrete to address the situation. He expressed hope that the soon-to-be-established World Trade Organization would take into account the interests of developing countries. Preferential treatment and compensation measures must be open to developing countries.

Guniea's Foreign Minister, Kozo Zoumanigui, said many of the world's tragedies were being played out in Africa -- a continent already sorely tried by natural disasters and forced migrations. The international community must act with greater strength and unity to end the tragic situation in Africa. For example, in the last five years, fratricidal conflict had plunged Liberia

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into chaos and isolation. Despite the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the crisis continued. He appealed to the international community to become more involved in the quest for a solution to that conflict.

The desire of African countries to guarantee peace in the region was reflected by the mechanisms established by the OAU, he continued. A peace fund had been set up to support those mechanisms, but resources were extremely limited. Inequalities in trade, debt service and inequitable prices for commodities created further problems. In spite of initiatives by individual countries, the continent was experiencing an unprecedented number of social problems. He urged the international community to increase the ODA to Africa. Such assistance must take into account related social concerns. The promotion of tolerance and the elimination of poverty would strengthen the unity and stability of all nations. The Agenda for Development was an important reference document in the quest for solutions to the problems of developing countries.

Somsavat Lengsavad, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, said cooperation had grown in South-East Asia. The recent opening of the Lao-Thai friendship bridge was an important development. He hoped that the people of Cambodia would soon live in peace, in an atmosphere of national reconciliation. Meanwhile, Myanmar's efforts towards national reconciliation and an economic opening had been succeeding. Because of the interdependence of the global economy, developed countries must cooperate with developing ones to promote development for all. In order for the United Nations to carry out its task, it must be restructured and democratized.

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, economic growth had averaged between 6 and 7 per cent for the last three years, while inflation had not exceeded 10 per cent, he went on to say. Action had been undertaken to address the problem of drug trafficking. The population had been encouraged to give up the poppy crop and to choose substitute crops. A special drug abuse unit had been established, and neighbours had been encouraged to join the international fight against drug trafficking.

Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi said his country wanted good relations with all others, especially with its neighbours. It was committed to building excellent relations with The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to helping it to overcome its problems. That country's integrity, stability and recognition were vital for peace and security in the region. Albania also wanted peace and cooperation with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), but those relations would remain frozen pending a settlement of the Kosova issue. That issue was not merely a question of respect for the human rights of two million Albanian people, but was about recognition of the political self-governing entity for which the population of Kosova had voted in a democratic manner.

Serb and Greek nationalism threatened the Balkans, he continued. Only the world community's refusal to recognize violations of accepted principles

would compel the Serbs to give up war as a means of solving problems. The dismemberment of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ethnic cleansing were unacceptable. Albania supported the request for the lifting of the arms embargo against the Republic. Sanctions against Belgrade should not be eased, but should be tightened and implemented if the international community wanted the crises in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Sandjak, Vojvodina and Kosova to end. Greek nationalism was a growing threat to Albania and Albanians. The Albanian Government had stated that the crisis in its relations with Greece would not affect relations between Albanians and the Greek minority in Albania.

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1745
6 October 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ President of Rwanda urges United Nations to quickly establish international tribunal to try those responsible for genocide in his country; Guyana, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Antigua and Barbuda, Kazakhstan and Mali also speak in General Assembly's general debate.

+ Central African Republic says military regimes submerged Africa's nations in poverty; Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, Cameroon, Yemen, Sierra Leone and Fiji among other speakers in general debate yesterday.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2.3 billion as of 30 September; $812 million owed to regular budget and $1.5 billion to peace-keeping.

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President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda today urged the United Nations to quickly establish an international tribunal in his country to bring those responsible for genocide to justice. He supported the adoption of a Security Council resolution to facilitate the arrest and trial of suspects currently outside Rwanda's borders, based on Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. A genocide that rivalled the Nazi Holocaust had been committed before the very eyes of the international community. It was six months since the initial crimes had been carried out and it was time to act. Delaying the start of trials caused frustration on the part of the victims, who were beginning to despair at the lack of justice.

It was necessary to rebuild Rwanda entirely, so as to ensure that the various elements of the population could coexist, he continued. That task would be enormous, but the will of the Rwandese people was unflinching. Addressing the victims of genocide, he reiterated his Government's determination to bring the culprits to justice. Those Rwandese who had been "blindly manipulated to join the bankrupt policies of division and suppression" should join in the task of building a new society based on tolerance and reconciliation. He stressed that the Government encouraged all refugees to return without discrimination, and appealed to the international community to support the repatriation effort.

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For information media--not an official record

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The Prime Minister of Guyana, Samuel Hinds, told the General Assembly today that meeting basic human needs was a prerequisite for a stable political environment. While Guyana suffered from the residue of external debt and the debilitating effects of structural adjustment, it was committed to providing health, housing and education services. It would also work to create an economic and social environment in which men and women could reach their full potential. However, problems of development, population growth and environmental destruction were global, and it was necessary to address their root causes. He expressed the hope that the current Assembly session would yield positive measures to address prevailing economic, social and humanitarian problems.

He urged that the international community seriously consider the "new global humanitarian order" proposed by the President of Guyana, which aimed to fuse various aspects of undertakings by the Assembly. That proposal was directly related to the Assembly's work on the Secretary-General's Agenda for Development, the proposals of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It also concerned the recent International Conference on Population and Development, and the forthcoming World Summit on Social Development and Fourth World Conference on Women.

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Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Bahrain's Foreign Minister, said the new global order should rest on three basic principles: creation of a new vision of development; a mechanism for the maintenance of international peace and security; and cultural interaction among nations. The Agenda for Development was an important attempt to recast the development process to meet the needs of developing countries. Those countries were still beset by indebtedness, low commodity prices, high interest rates, a decline in investments, and international trade barriers. The world needed an equitable order that enabled all States to reap the benefits of economic advances. The World Trade Organization should contribute to the establishment of an impartial economic order. Environmental concerns should not be used to raise protectionist taxes and reduce trade in certain commodities.

Turning to the situation in the Middle East, he said Israel should accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The region must be made free from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Bahrain welcomed the positive developments in the Middle East peace process, but progress must be comprehensive and integrated. It would be futile to focus on peace and development in one part of the region and leave problems unresolved in another. Negotiations should lead to a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon.

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Bangladesh's Foreign Minister, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, said concerns about territorial security were being overshadowed by concerns about human security. Within States, resurgent nationalism and factionalism based on narrow self-interest, ethnic and cultural rivalries, bigotry and extremism had contributed to unprecedented human misery. Political instability had contributed to economic breakdown and economic backwardness had fired political upheaval in a never-ending vicious cycle. New global forces had emerged that no State could control on its own. A new polarity was emerging between rich and poor countries.

The development crisis called for urgent action, especially to implement the 1990s Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, he continued. There was a need to accelerate growth, write off debts, provide wider and preferential access to developing markets, and boost foreign direct investment. International law was the only protection for smaller and weaker States. It must be strengthened, especially where the absence of law could lead to conflict over such issues as water-sharing, maritime jurisdictions, transboundary pollution and environmental damage. He highlighted the issue of constrained resources and the need for new ones. The heart of the matter was the need for commitment to the entire development cause rather than particular interests. It was necessary to balance long-term interests and immediate emergencies, while facing up to the underlying crisis of development.

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Lester Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, said the developed world had taken very little action on behalf of the Caribbean countries. Their situation in international economic relations had worsened, as prices for commodities had decreased, the cost of imports had increased and access to preferential markets had diminished. Meanwhile, only a handful of donors had met United Nations targets for official development assistance (ODA). The underlying causes of worsening economic and human conditions, and of crises like those in Grenada 13 years ago and in Haiti today, had gone unnoticed and unattended.

Debt repayments prevented many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean from revitalizing their economies, he continued. That situation called for a change in the rules of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to allow for the forgiveness of debt. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries should also relax their position on bilateral debt. At least 50 per cent of existing debt should be forgiven. If a meaningful dialogue between the rich and poor countries did not begin soon, there could be a standoff in relations that would paralyse economic cooperation and progress. Within the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), such a dialogue should lead to the adoption of a practical programme acceptable to both rich and poor.

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Kanat Saudabayev, Foreign Minister of Kazahkstan, said his country wanted to establish itself as a link between Europe and Asia. He supported the convening of a conference on confidence-building measures in Asia. Its purpose would be to develop fundamental principles and areas of cooperation with a view to strengthening peace and stability and promoting economic prosperity. The process of economic integration should lead to the formation of an Asian common market. In addition, the President of Kazakhstan had proposed the establishment of the "Euro-Asian Union" to prevent conflicts in the post-Soviet period.

Since the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), stability and security as a basis of economic and social reform had come to the forefront, he continued. The first step in the "Euro-Asian Union" integration process was the creation of a common economic space by the central Asian States -- Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Appropriate inter-State bodies, such as the Central Asian Bank, had already begun to function. The draft for the proposed union must adequately reflect the interests of the States of the region, regardless of their size, population, economic and other indicators. Efforts to bring about integration at the regional and inter-regional levels needed the support of international organizations and leading countries, he added.

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Mali's Foreign Minister, Sy Kadiatou Sow, said any conflict capable of destabilizing a region was a threat to international security. Regional and sub-regional initiatives for the settlement of conflicts should be supported by the international community and local States. Increased cooperation was needed between the United Nations and organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to address the situation in Somalia. Regarding Western Sahara, the United Nations must pursue efforts to hold a referendum in line with relevant Security Council resolutions. Mali supported any initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina to reduce the stubborn position of the Serb population. Efforts must be made to ensure implementation of Council resolutions on the situation there.

One of the major challenges before the United Nations was development, she continued. The strategies undertaken to date had not produced the desired results, particularly in Africa. The new World Trade Organization should focus attention on the conditions of developing countries. Preferential treatment should be offered to the least developed ones. A new system to govern world trade should address such issues as technology transfers, regional economic integration and migration. She welcomed the recent adoption of the International Convention on Drought and Desertification.

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The President of the Central African Republic, Ange-Félixe Patasse, told the General Assembly yesterday that Africa's military regimes had submerged

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their populations in a state of unprecedented impoverishment. Towards the end of 1990, the cries of alarm from those people were heard by the international community, which soon helped them attain democracy. It had started in the East and was soon felt in Africa. Some countries had chosen national conferences, while others -- including the Central African Republic -- had chosen free democratic elections.

He expressed the hope that the United Nations would deal with the hotbeds of tension throughout the world, particularly in Africa. The forty-ninth session of the Assembly must take urgent measures to prevent and control conflicts by establishing and strengthening legal instruments. Only in that way would the poorer countries be able to control their fate. Africa had a wealth of raw materials, yet its economies had become very fragile. That was because of different ideologies, which reflected selfish interests and an overall lack of solidarity among African nations. The continent accounted for less than 2 per cent of international trade, and was crushed by debt. Structural adjustments had done nothing to improve the situation. International assistance and solidarity was necessary to raise the standard of living of the African people.

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Choi Su Hon, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said yesterday that following the death of President Kim Il Sung, his country had turned grief and sorrow into strength and courage. The new leader, Kim Jong Il, enjoyed infinite respect and absolute trust. The People's Republic had made every effort to unify the Korean peninsula, and that would hopefully be achieved in the 1990s. A confederation based on the concept of one nation and one State, two systems and two governments, was the way to succeed. To defuse tensions and bring about peace, the Korean Armistice Agreement must be replaced with a peace agreement. The Agreement and its mechanism had failed to prevent a military build-up and large-scale war exercises.

Another important element in defusing tensions and establishing peace on the Korean peninsula was the resolution of the nuclear issue, he continued. That issue must be resolved bilaterally by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States. The two rounds of talks already conducted showed that if those countries worked together with trust, the outcome would be good. To demonstrate the transparency of its nuclear activities, the People's Republic had decided to replace graphite-moderated reactors with light water reactors. No threat or blackmail or sanctions would work against his country. The people would never beg for peace at the expense of their national dignity and the country would never sell its interests under pressure.

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Ghana's Foreign Minister, Obed Asamoah, said the end of the cold war and the strains of nation-building had produced new threats to peace around the

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world. However, Liberia and Somalia were close to being written off the way Afghanistan had been. Increasingly, regional organizations and small States were being called upon to bear the burden of securing peace. In Liberia, Ghana and other Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) members were struggling to help maintain a nation. In Rwanda, Ghana and Canada had been left alone to deal with a tragedy without adequate support. Given the unwillingness of many States to get involved in conflicts far from their shores, the international community must support States such as Ghana and regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in defending the ideals of the United Nations.

The conflict situations in the developing world and the economically backward areas of Europe had their roots in economic deprivation and poverty, he said. Those conditions were compounded by an inequitable system of international trade and its attendant problems, such as debt. Most lower-income countries -- which had debts totalling $1.3 trillion -- were in sub-Saharan Africa. The region's debt servicing amounted to $200 billion, or 10 per cent of the total income of the countries involved. The scale of the debt problem and its consequences demanded action by the international community.

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Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, Foreign Minister of Cameroon, said his country had always sought to resolve its border dispute with Nigeria by using preventive diplomacy. Preventive diplomacy could stem conflicts and should be encouraged and supported by the international community. The means for carrying out preventive diplomacy should be strengthened by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations. Ongoing conflicts in Africa demanded action against poverty and destitution. Tolerance, the respect for rights and the sharing of the fruits of economic growth should take place at the national level. State sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected.

Peace was the foundation of development, as had been noted in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Development, he continued. That report deserved the attention of the international community. The African economy was based on commodities, and development must take into account the need for diversification. A fund should be established for diversification in Africa. Debt, drought and desertification also required action. With the completion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), steps must be taken to address the marginalization of the continent.

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Yemen's Foreign Minister, Mohamed Salem Basendwah, said that in spite of the former division of his country, its people had always considered themselves to be one Muslim, Arab, Yemeni people, and had never forgotten that they belonged to one nation. This year, Yemen had been exposed to bloody

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sedition as a result of a conspiracy by treacherous elements who rebelled against legitimate institutions. Having ended that conspiracy, Yemen now enjoyed stability and security. A general amnesty had been declared and national reconciliation achieved. None of those who had deceived and disinformed had been subjected to any harm or put on trial.

The success of democracy depended on economic growth, he went on to say. That required an end to an economic war which took many different forms, including closure of regional markets to Yemen's agricultural and industrial products. Yemen appealed to its neighbours to lift all barriers to free trade, as an important step towards the normalization of relations and regional cooperation. Yemen also appealed to the Security Council to lift the sanctions against Iraq, which were no longer justified. Maintaining those measures would lead to deepening enmity between States in the region. The Council should also review its resolutions relating to Libya and accept the reasonable solutions put forward by the Arab League. Those included trying the suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie before an international court, in accordance with the law of Scotland.

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Abass Chernor Bundu, Sierra Leone's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said poverty and decreasing living standards were at the heart of his country's problems. The Government had embarked on wide-ranging socio-economic reforms and had secured short-term macroeconomic stability. However, it had not removed structural constraints on the economy or improved supply capacity. The external indebtedness of developing countries posed the biggest impediment to their development. The United Nations and the international community should adopt the report of the high-level meeting on the debt crisis convened by the Non-Aligned Movement in Jarkata last August, which had endorsed some general principles for debt reduction.

The international community should provide developing countries with concessional financial and technical support for infrastructure, he said. The Secretary General's Agenda for Development provided a historic opportunity to address the root causes of poverty and underdevelopment. There was no clear commitment on the part of the developed countries to provide resources for the implementation of Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The developing world was committed to implementing Agenda 21, but that commitment must be complemented by adequate human, financial and technical resources.

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Ratu Manasa Seniloli, representative of Fiji, noted that his country had participated in this year's Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The international community should provide increased technical assistance for the human resource development programmes

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of small island States. He also noted that Fiji had been implementing the Convention on the Law of the Sea through its Marine Spaces Act. The entry into force of the Convention would consolidate his country's claims to the archipelagic waters, the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone. Fiji advocated universal participation in the Convention.

Fiji also supported the conclusion of an international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, as Fijian soldiers had died in various peace-keeping operations, he said. At present, there were at least 1,000 Fijian peace-keepers deployed worldwide. Continued innovations in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations would be necessary if it were to play a meaningful and effective role in support of United Nations activities. He went on to welcome the temporary cessation of nuclear testing in the Pacific region by France. The United States, the United Kingdom and France should accede to the Protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga as a demonstration of their commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and a ban on testing in the South Pacific. Fiji objected strongly to the sea transit through the region of consignments of plutonium bound for Japan.

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As of 30 September, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.3 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $812 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.5 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United Nations received several payments for peace-keeping last month. The United States made two payments totaling almost $577 million; Japan paid $201 million; the Russian Federation paid $20 million; and China paid $14.5 million. As a result, the Organization was able to pay almost $168 million to troop-contributing countries in September. It was expected to pay another $188 million to troop contributors by 15 October.

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Correction:

In the Daily Highlights of Monday, 26 September 1994, the last paragraph on page 5 should have read:

"The Council adopted resolution 943 (1994) by 11 votes in favour to 2 against (Djibouti and Pakistan), with Nigeria and Rwanda abstaining. It said it would suspend several economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for an initial 100 days if the border between that country and Bosnia and Herzegovina were closed. It would suspend restrictions on air travel for civilian passengers, with regard to aircraft not impounded at the date of the adoption of the resolution. Also suspended were restrictions on maritime traffic, sporting events and cultural exchanges."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1746
7 October 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says he is closely following reports of Iraqi troop movements towards Kuwait; reiterates that any threat to peace and security in region violates Security Council resolutions.

+ Iraq tells General Assembly it is complying with Security Council resolutions despite persistent obstruction by United States; Liberia, Togo, Jamaica, San Marino and Eritrea also speak in general debate.

+ United States says Iraq is violating more Security Council resolutions than any Member State in history of United Nations; warns that it will show same resolve as before if Iraq repeats past mistakes.

+ Djibouti says United Nations must not abandon Somalia, citing promises and commitments in Charter; Brunei Darussalam, Slovenia, Madagascar, Ecuador, Namibia and Ethiopia among other speakers in general debate yesterday.

+ UNPROFOR carries out aggressive sweep in Sarajevo demilitarized zone; says Bosnian Government unit killed 20 Bosnian Serbs on Mount Igman in raid launched from inside zone.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said he was closely following news reports of Iraqi troop movements towards Kuwait. He reiterated that any threat to peace and security in the region was a violation of Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General underlined, as he did yesterday during his meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, the importance of continued Iraqi cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission and with its Chairman, Rolf Ekeus, as well as compliance with Council resolutions.

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For information media--not an official record

The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, today told the General Assembly that his country was ready to comply with Security Council requirements, despite the cruel and extraordinary nature of resolution 687 (1991). The embargo against Iraq represented the most comprehensive regime imposed by the Council. The freezing of assets in foreign banks denied Iraq the resources to purchase food and medicine, while the methods adopted by the Sanctions Committee had negative consequences on the flow of humanitarian goods. It was clear that the application of the embargo was a vindictive process aimed at depriving the Iraqi people of the simplest constituents of human life.

The United States had made various false accusations about Iraq in order to indefinitely delay the lifting of sanctions, he said. It pretended to care for the rights of the Kurds, but had prevented their leaders from honouring an agreement freely reached with Iraq in 1991. President Saddam Hussein had expressed a sincere desire to establish relations with neighbouring Arab States based on the Charters of the League of Arab States and the United Nations. The United States had obstructed those efforts and pressured the States of the region to reject dialogue. Despite the harshness of the resolutions, Iraq had already implemented many of their provisions. It continued to implement the remaining ones legally and correctly. However, the United States persistently obstructed any step towards the correct legal application of the resolutions, and conducted itself on the basis of biased political motives. The Security Council, the General Assembly and the international community should look into that iniquitous and illegitimate situation.

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David Kpomakpor, Chairman of the Council of State of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, today that said that some conflicts within States were so complex that policy makers were forced to debate the merits of peacemaking or peace-keeping, when the main issue should be saving lives. As a result, he told the General Assembly, the international community sometimes reacted with shortsighted measures. Attempts to resolve some conflicts unwittingly overlooked the intransigence of the warlords involved.

The situation in Liberia had evolved into a deadly stalemate, he continued. The overriding principle of the 1993 Cotonou Accord was disarmament and demobilization of the warring factions, but the number of armed groups had mushroomed. The subsequent fighting had created a mass exodus of frightened Liberians to neighbouring countries. The stalemate was the result of the intransigence of the warring factions and their refusal to disarm and demobilize. The Liberian people were ready for peace, which could be realized given the right mix of initiatives. Recent events, including a failed coup and the renewed fighting, reinforced the need for effective action towards disarmament and demobilization. He appealed for greater support for the Economic Community of West African States' Monitoring Observer Group (ECOMOG). The international community must take the high moral ground and provide the resources needed to end the human misery and suffering in Liberia.

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Boumbera Alassounouma, Togo's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, said Africa must shoulder its own responsibilities for conflict resolution. In June, the President of Togo had proposed to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) the creation of an African peace force to to serve as a buffer while peaceful solutions to conflicts were sought. The United Nations must also encourage the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Organization's effectiveness was sometimes diminished by the refusal of some Member States to commit to peace, despite their special responsibilities under the Charter. The Security Council should be broadened to adapt to the current reality.

The elimination of poverty should also be a major United Nations objective, he said. The forthcoming World Summit for Social Development should give adequate attention to that problem. The economic situation in Africa had led to widespread poverty, aggravated by social adjustment programmes. The Agenda for Development was a timely initiative and offered the opportunity to begin a dialogue on fair development. The transition from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to the World Trade Organization should include a system of compensation for developing countries adjusting to the new arrangement. There should be an increase in the volume of official development assistance, and more debt alleviation and write-offs. Other flows of capital, including direct investment, should be promoted.

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Jamacia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Paul Robertson, said no country could control environmental degradation, transnational migrations and diseases such as AIDS by itself. Multilateral solutions had also to be found to such problems as the debt burden, inadequate flows of official development assistance (ODA), the social costs of structural adjustment, and the protectionist measures of industrialized countries. The contribution of the United Nations and its agencies remained vital in enhancing the productive potential of developing countries.

It was time to reassess the roles of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which needed to quickly adapt to the current global economic system, he said. Jamaica supported an open, non-discriminatory trading system governed by transparent rules, and awaited the implementation of the conclusions of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the establishment of the World Trade Organization. On military matters, he said the United Nations had a legitimate role in providing assistance to developing and other countries to shift their human and material resources from military to civilian use. He noted, however, that the permanent members of the Security Council were also the world's leading exporters of conventional weapons.

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Gabriele Gatti, San Marino's Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs, said the decisions taken at the International Conference on Population and Development were only a small step forward. However, it was encouraging that the Conference had recognized that all problems relating to the issue of rapid population growth should be addressed. Human rights and dignity must be respected, including the right to make free choices and the rights to development, democratic progress and equality. The family represented the last hope for mankind. All family issues were of the utmost importance, and San Marino had recently adopted new measures for the protection of motherhood and fatherhood.

Development and equitable distribution could only be achieved if the environment were safeguarded, he continued. Too often, environmental protection was sacrificed in the name of economic and national advancement, which damaged the interests of other people and the common well-being. The rich and industrialized countries were regularly destroying the natural environment within and outside their borders. San Marino had created a "Foundation for the Environment" with a very ambitious programme, and hoped for the collaboration and support of the United Nations.

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Petros Solomon, Eritrea's Foreign Minister, said there was a need to restructure the United Nations based on equilibrium between the forces of centralization and decentralization. Certain problems relating to the environment, population and disarmament might require coordinated international action and centralized authority. Others, including the breakdown of political systems and inter-State conflicts, might be better solved by regional actors, institutions and approaches.

The situation in the Horn of Africa, although improving, was far from satisfactory, he said. The region's impoverishment was largely man-made and could not be blamed on the vicissitudes of nature. Decades of war had sapped the people, leaving them susceptible to even minor imbalances in rainfall patterns and natural calamities. International assistance would remain vital for years to come in remedying the consequences of decades of war and turmoil. Reliable and sustainable economic development would be achieved through effective regional cooperation.

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United States Representative Madeleine Albright today told the General Assembly that Iraq was in violation of more Security Council resolutions than any Member State in the history of the United Nations. Exercising the right of reply in the general debate, she said Iraq had sought to evade, ignore and negotiate away its obligations. The only approach it had not tried was compliance.

In his statement to the Assembly this morning, she continued, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had misrepresented the facts about Iraq's lack of compliance with Council resolutions and insulted the Organization. It was the

height of cynicism for the Iraqi Government to appeal to the Assembly on behalf of its suffering people. That same Government had destroyed hundreds of Kurdish villages and used chemical weapons against its own civilians.

"Iraq is not the victim. Iraq is the aggressor," she stressed. It was currently moving elements of two divisions close to the Kuwaiti border. She warned Iraq that a repetition of its past mistakes would be met by the United States with the same resolve as before.

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Roble Olhaye of Djibouti told the General Assembly yesterday that the prospect of a functioning civil society in Somalia was now more remote than ever. Meaningful inter-faction talks had ceased, security had evaporated, and the dream of national reconciliation was fading. Meanwhile, the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was focusing on the process of withdrawal, with possible departure scheduled for 31 March 1995. For too long, the United Nations had sought voluntary disarmament, conferences on national reconciliation, and a government elected by the people. However, the warlords wanted the political process to end with them, without passing through to the people. They wanted the United Nations to withdraw so that they could settle scores among themselves.

What had been absent from the whole process in Somalia was the voice of the people in selecting legitimate leadership, he continued. Instead, power had been abdicated to bands of gun-holders. A way must be found to give the people a voice, leading to a legitimate government. Leaving Somalia with nothing in place and so many lives at risk would be abhorrent and unacceptable -- a case where a "failed State" had been abandoned by the United Nations. Walking out on a society before restoring it as a functioning entity would set a precedent in United Nations history. Such an action would be far from the hopes, promises and commitments of the Charter.

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The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'Izzaddin Waddaulah, told the General Assembly yesterday that the world needed stability to increase economic cooperation through trade and investment. Trends towards protectionism must be resisted; States must be encouraged to open up their economies and reward liberalization. He said regional organizations could ease the burden on the United Nations, in line with the Charter. Organizations such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) could use preventive diplomacy and promote regional economic cooperation.

ASEAN, of which Brunei was a member, offered a vision of regional cooperation and development, he continued. It did not aim to establish institutions and legal undertakings like the European Union, but to foster a culture of cooperation. Most ASEAN countries had unresolved territorial questions. Sensitive issues of ethnicity, culture and religion were often involved in those countries' relationships with each other. The organization was now discussing how to complete the ASEAN Free Trade Area within 10 years.

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The United Nations, particularly the permanent members of the Security Council, must retain primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. At the same time, a culture of peace and security in South-East Asia was being created through ASEAN.

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Madagascar's Foreign Minister, Jacques Sylla, yesterday called for efforts to make United Nations machinery more effective. Recent experience showed the need to improve the Organization's capacity to prevent breaches of peace and its ability to carry out operations on the ground. Broad international support and the consent of the parties to a conflict were necessary for the success of those operations. They must also be accompanied by negotiations and economic assistance. Diplomacy was the best means to prevent a conflict, while regional cooperation contributed to the success of peace-keeping.

Madagascar was deeply committed to democratic principles and felt they should apply to the international system, he continued. Democratic representation reflecting current realities was needed on the Security Council, without impairing its effectiveness. Any reform must be supported by all Member States. He went on to say that Africa's efforts to achieve economic development had not received adequate financial support. The problems of development could no longer be addressed on an ad hoc basis or through adjustment measures. Structural reform of the international economic system was needed. He called for international support to meet the immediate needs of Madagascar, adding that the country was ready to complete agreements with the Bretton Woods institutions.

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Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia said a measured and realistic expansion of the Security Council would be appropriate, with permanent membership for Germany and Japan. There was also a need to enhance the transparency of the Council's work. The system of consultations should be developed further to provide for the participation of Member States interested in various situations and issues dealt with by the Council. United Nations military and related activities had developed far beyond what was once defined as peace-keeping. Careful reflection on the future direction of those activities was needed. He welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to develop a system of stand-by forces.

Slovenia was the only successor State of the former Yugoslavia which was not directly threatened by the ongoing conflict in that region, he stated. The horrors of the war against ordinary citizens, mass violations of human rights and breaches of international law were cause for serious concern. The conflict had seriously damaged the image and credibility of the United Nations. It was true that without the involvement of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the tragedy in Bosnia would have been even worse, but humanitarian assistance alone could not be considered a substitute for

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effective policy. The continued militant behaviour of the Bosnian Serbs pointed to the need to reconsider the option of lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Jaime Marchan, Ecuador's Acting Foreign Minister, expressed support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The General Assembly should commit the necessary resources to enable the High Commissioner to carry out his duties. Ecuador believed in the fundamental right to life, and would not accept the implementation of programmes for population control which allowed abortion. He appealed to the international community to undertake generous humanitarian action in favour of the victims of the Rwandan tragedy.

All States should join forces in safeguarding and restoring the environment, he continued. Rules and conventions were being forumlated, and resources and technical efforts should directed to putting solutions into practice. It was important to develop a greater linkage between the World Bank, the Inter-American Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on the one hand, and the programmes of the United Nations and the Global Environmental Facility, on the other. He condemned the resumption of atomic tests for warlike ends. Those practices damaged the environment, endangered countries in the test area and ignored the right of all peoples to live in peace and security. Ecuador supported the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the declaration of new nuclear-weapon-free zones. It also supported the creation of an international authority, as proposed by the Holy See, to reduce trade in conventional weapons.and reach the goal of total proscription of all kinds of weapons.

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Namibia's Foreign Minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab, informed the General Assembly that diplomacy had triumphed over confrontation on 1 March this year, with the reintegration of Walvis Bay and the Offshore Islands into his country. That had created an enormous opportunity for regional economic integration, community-building and prosperity. The southern African region presented a good example of transformation from conflicts, instability and suppression to peace, democracy and hope. Namibia was particularly gratified to welcome the new South Africa into the community of nations, as the two countries had struggled together during the apartheid era.

The transformation of the former Southern African Development Coordinating Conference into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) would boost regional economic cooperation and development, he continued. It would also be a step towards the realization of the goals of the African Economic Community, especially in the field of trade, investment and human-resource development. The SADC could augment the mechanism of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for conflict resolution. Its first major success was peaceful resolution of an attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of Lesotho. Africa needed similar successes in other conflict situations, such as in Rwanda, Liberia and Somalia. Namibia was also

an active member of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic and would continue promoting trade in that area, including the development of fisheries and marine resources, and tourism.

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Seyoum Mesfin, Foreign Minister of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, said deteriorating economic and social conditions in developing countries posed the world's greatest challenge. Action to address concerns such as peace and security and the environment would be misdirected if developing countries were allowed to wallow in poverty. Each conflict in Africa arose from an impossible economic and social situation. The traditional notions of preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping and peacemaking were not enough. The Agenda for Peace was not sufficient without the Agenda for Development.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) mechanism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts required effective assistance from the international community, he said. No African country was immune to the political and social consequences of economic decline. That decline could only be arrested through international economic cooperation and development partnership. The transitional Government in Ethiopia had been working to restore peace and stability, democratize the political process and liberalize the economy. The key to the success of Ethiopian democracy was sustainable economic growth and development. Notable gains had already been made in the economic sector, and cooperation with international financial institutions had been encouraging. Due to the challenges that lay ahead, Ethiopia continued to count on the support of the international community.

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French peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today carried out an aggressive sweep in the Sarajevo demilitarized zone using armoured vehicles and foot patrols, according to a spokesman for the Organization. They drove out some 350 Bosnian Government soldiers who had been in the zone in violation of the demilitarization agreement, and destroyed some bunkers and emplacements.

Yesterday, a French patrol discovered the bodies of 20 Bosnian Serbs who had been camped on Mount Igman, on the edge of the demilitarized zone. They had been killed by a Bosnian Government commando unit which had carried out a raid from inside the zone. Four of the Bosnian Serbs had been sentries, and their throats had been slit. Another four were unarmed female nurses. There was some evidence of a firefight, but some of the bodies had bullet wounds to the back of the neck. Some were found in a tent which had been set on fire.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1747
10 October 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Iraq says it is relocating troops from Basra area after Security Council expresses concern at reported movements towards border with Kuwait.

+ Secretary-General expresses satisfaction at resignation of General Cédras as Commander of Haitian Armed Forces.

+ Saint Kitts and Nevis says international community must mobilize resources to rebuild Haitian economy; Barbados, Dominica, Maldives, Iceland and Nepal also speak in General Assembly's general debate.

+ Libya condemns international terrorism and says it will accept trial of Lockerbie suspects under Scottish law; Swaziland, Viet Nam, Solomon Islands and Thailand among other speakers in general debate on Friday.

+ Economic and Financial Committee begins debate on world economic situation; Algeria says United Nations must have more resources for operational activities for development.

+ UNHCR launches winter aid programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina; reports far fewer problems than in past two years.

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Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoon, today said his Government had decided to move its troops from the Basra area to another location, given the Security Council's concern over the matter. He told correspondents at Headquarters that it was the right of any Government to move its troops from time to time within its own territory. He expressed the hope that the removal of the troops would resolve the situation which had begun to develop on Friday.

On Saturday, the Council expressed grave concern at reports that substantial numbers of Iraqi troops, including units of the Iraqi Republican Guard, were being moved towards the border with Kuwait. In a statement by its

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President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), the Council asked the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) redoubled its vigilance and immediately reported any violation of the demilitarized zone or any potentially hostile act.

The Secretary-General today expressed concern about the Iraqi attitude towards Kuwait as reflected in recent statements and actions. He noted that those actions were contrary to the letter and spirit of Security Council resolutions governing the situation, and emphasized Iraq's obligation to comply fully with all resolutions for the maintenance of international peace and security. Iraq's immediate and unqualified recognition of the Iraq-Kuwait border, as defined in resolution 833 (1993), and full cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission would contribute to lessening tension in the region, as well as to reducing the suffering of the Iraqi people, he said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed satisfaction at the resignation of Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras as Commander of the Haitian Armed Forces and the transfer of command to Major-General Jean-Claude Duperval. He noted that Brigadier-General Philippe Biamby and Colonel Michel François were reported to have already submitted their resignations.

The Secretary-General said the resignations were positive steps towards implementation of Security Council resolution 940 (1994). He expressed the hope that they would facilitate the return to power of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the restoration of democracy in Haiti.

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Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis, today expressed support for the action taken by the United States and the international community to ensure compliance with Security Council resolution 940 (1994). He told the General Assembly that the process of establishing democracy in Haiti would be only just beginning with the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The international community must mobilize financial and technical resources to ensure the rebuilding of the country's economy and institutions. Saint Kitts and Nevis was ready to assist the Haitian people in that endeavour.

The Declaration of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was welcome as it recognized the special needs of those States, he went on to say. Their very survival depended on the sustainable development of human resources and the use of scarce material resources. However, small island developing States rarely received adequate support from the developed world; when they managed to raise their standard of living to a decent level, the international community withdrew its support under the pretext that per capita income was too high. The Barbados Declaration underscored the fact that small island developing States had sovereign rights over their natural resources. Developed countries should not link economic assistance, trade and investment with environmental protection.

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Billie Miller, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Barbados, today said small countries such as Barbados faced many challenges in sustaining people-oriented development. Her Government sought to address them by working with its people for a strong position in the global community. Barbados viewed the situation in Haiti with concern. Its participation in the multinational force and the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) reflected a commitment to ensuring that the will of the Haitian people was respected and that their lawful President was restored to office. The Governments of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) had agreed to provide assistance to develop a civilian force to maintain peace and respect for human rights in Haiti.

Throughout CARICOM, the private and public sectors were increasing their collaboration, she continued. At the same time, intergovernmental and economic cooperation was expanding. Concerted efforts were being made to boost trade and to improve economic, social and cultural well-being. The Association of Caribbean States had recently been established to unite the development efforts of the 40 Caribbean-basin States. The Association sought to develop the potential of the Caribbean, to improve opportunities for trade and investment, and to establish structures and arrangements responsive to the region's needs. She appealed to the United States to lift the economic embargo against Cuba so that it could be reintegrated into the world economy.

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Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles of Dominica said the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be significantly strengthened if the General Assembly abandoned the selective condemnation of human rights abuses. Those abuses should be condemned wherever and whenever they occurred. She called on all States to work for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and expressed concern at the international community's apparent unwillingness to stem the production of conventional arms. Such weapons were frequently acquired by third world States ostensibly to deter aggression, but often became instruments of internal repression and the cause of national and regional instability. Shifting resources from building unnecessary arsenals to development programmes would result in great social and economic benefits.

She went on to express support for the establishment of the World Trade Organization and the liberalization of trade practices. The fragile economies of small island States could be destroyed if free trade did not include some measure of fairness. Dominica hoped that the recent formation of the Association of Caribbean States would provide the framework for increased trade among the States of the region. The forthcoming summit of the Americas and the detailed examination of hemispheric integration could provide an impetus for collaboration on matters of regional trade.

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Fathulla Jameel, Foreign Minister of Maldives, urged the General Assembly to give adequate attention to the agenda item on the protection and security

of small States. The vulnerability of small States was clearly demonstrated in the case of Kuwait in 1990. Recent cases when the United Nations took firm and decisive action highlighted the importance of the collective security system envisaged in the Charter. They also indicated the need for a rapid-response system if international peace and security were to be maintained. Success in maintaining peace also depended on progress in the field of disarmament. While there had been some significant achievements, the production, stockpiling and sale of weapons of war prevailed worldwide.

He said he was dismayed that despite the recent conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade talks, developing countries had not been helped to maintain economic growth. The gap between the developed and developing countries was increasing, while protectionism in trade persisted. South-South cooperation was more necessary than ever to encourage development efforts on the basis of collective self-reliance. At the same time, North-South dialogue was essential in order to promote common interests and benefits.

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The representative of Iceland, Gunnar Palsson, said the United Nations was being saddled with new responsibilities without receiving adequate resources. While the Organization should be transformed into a more effective instrument for dealing with issues beyond the compass of individual States, it should not be considered a substitute for national governments. The need to focus on economic progress must not blind the world to needs in other areas. In view of successful United Nations efforts to promote sustainable development worldwide, measures must be taken to protect the environment from detrimental patterns of production and development. Iceland was particularly concerned at the deteriorating condition of the world's oceans.

The marine ecosystem was now in greater danger than ever before from pollution and overfishing, he continued. Although much had been done to protect the oceans, existing conventions aimed at containing pollution covered only part of the problem, as no global scheme addressed pollution from land-based activities. Iceland attached great importance to the Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be convened in Washington next year under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jayaraj Acharya, said the current preoccupation with peace-keeping operations should not deflect attention from efforts to achieve disarmament under effective international control. The Non-Aligned Movement, of which Nepal was a founding member, had called for a special session of the Assembly on Disarmament to assess progress towards global disarmament. The United Nations Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament were important in strengthening the Organization's role in arms control and disarmament, as they provided a

much-needed forum for the exchange of views. The Center for Asia and the Pacific had already held several meetings to promote dialogue and interaction.

Nepal stressed the need for timely implementation of Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Commission on Sustainable Development had made a good start and must not be allowed to falter. In addition to providing more financial resources and transferring environmentally sound technology to developing countries, the international community should concentrate on moderating consumption and waste in industrialized countries. He noted that Nepal was determined to implement structural adjustment programmes and economic liberalization policies, including privatization.

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Omar Mustafa Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of Libya, told the General Assembly on Friday that certain States had been using international organs to impose their control and expand their hegemony. They used the Security Council to punish countries which stuck to their principles by adopting independent policies. That was the context of the dispute between Libya and France, the United Kingdom and the United States. Action had been pushed through the Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, even though Libya had not threatened anyone or jeopardized international peace and security.

Libya had taken many steps to pinpoint responsibility for the terrorist acts against the American and French planes and had cooperated with French and British investigations. Instead of accepting Libya's calls for talks, the States in question had persuaded the Council to tighten sanctions. Their aim was not to uncover the truth but to achieve political goals. Libya had condemned international terrorism and declared its readiness to combat the scourge. Its territory, citizens and institutions would not be used for terrorist acts, and it would severely punish those involved in them. Libya had accepted a proposal that the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing be tried by Scottish judges, under Scottish law, in the seat of the International Court of Justice. All it wanted was for the trial to be fair, just, and free from emotional or media influences, and in accordance with the norms of international law.

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Prince Mbilini Dlamini of Swaziland told the General Assembly on Friday that conflicts in Africa and elsewhere challenged the belief that man could ever live peacefully. He supported an integrated approach to conflict resolution in Africa. United Nations resources were being over-extended, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had moved to establish regional responses to those situations. The OAU was the best place to mobilize the efforts of its members, while the United Nations could continue to play its role as

coordinator of the international response. Many African conflicts could have been prevented if a mechanism had already been in place. He welcomed Assembly discussion of the matter, so that a plan of action could be agreed on quickly.

Africa understood its responsibility to address the issues obstructing its development, he continued. The need was clear, but the resources and ability of African countries were limited. Long-term sustainable development could not be achieved without short-term assistance from the international community. Swaziland had adopted a broad and integrated approach aimed at achieving sustainable, human-centred development. Its policies focused on the reduction of poverty, universal access to primary school and affordable primary health care.

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Viet Nam's Foreign Minister, Nguyen Manh Cam, noted that the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of an independent, free and democratic Viet Nam. The country was currently pursuing a path of renewal in every sphere of social life, including the development of a multi-sectoral economy operating through the market mechanism, with regulation by the State. It was also carrying out a renovation of the political system and administrative reform. After the promulgation of the new Constitution in 1992, the National Assembly had adopted new civil, labour, land and investment laws. Viet Nam was shifting to a new stage of development involving industrialization and modernization.

Viet Nam's policy of openness and cooperation with other countries coincided with the trend towards peace and cooperation for development around the world, particularly in south-east Asia, he said. Viet Nam had received observer status with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1992, and the ASEAN Foreign Ministers had recently expressed support for Viet Nam's full membership. All 10 countries of south-east Asia had participated in the recent ASEAN regional forum on regional security. They should consolidate existing points of agreement and narrow their differences to settle disputes, including those on the Eastern Sea. The lifting of the United States embargo against Viet Nam had opened up new prospects for cooperation between the two countries, and the embargo against Cuba should also be ended.

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Francis Saemala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Solomon Islands, said that the five-year old crisis on Bougainville, a province of Papua New Guinea, had spilled into his country. Through a process of dialogue between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, several important agreements had been signed. The Solomon Islands had played a conciliatory role in the conflict and supported the Bougainville Peace Conference. Regarding New Caledonia, his country had requested the Government of France and the territorial authorities to increase

efforts towards real economic and social redistribution. Further implementation of the Matignon Accords was needed.

The Solomon Islands supported the decision by the South Pacific Forum to seek United Nations observer status at the present session of the Assembly, he continued. It also supported the Forum's position that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) should be extended indefinitely. He urged all Forum partners to ratify the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. Hazardous and radioactive waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean was not to be encouraged. The Solomon Islands was also firmly opposed to the transshipment and transboundary movement of plutonium in the region. He called on the international community to support the Joint Declaration on Economic and Trade Cooperation recently signed between Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

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Thailand's Foreign Minister, Prasong Soonsiri, said the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had taken the lead in promoting political and security dialogue and consultation by establishing the ASEAN Regional Forum. Nineteen ministers from the Asia-Pacific region and the European Union had attended its first meeting in July to discuss cooperation and had decided to carry out some practical confidence-building measures. He welcomed the positive development regarding the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and expressed the hope that negotiations would eventually lead to lasting peace and stability. To support efforts to maintain international peace and security, he favoured reform and revitalization of the United Nations.

A new culture of development cooperation that included new definitions of "security" and of "development" was needed, he said. Security must involve people, and take into consideration political, economic, environmental and social factors. Development must be seen in the dimensions outlined by the Secretary-General. Work on the Agenda for Development must promote self-reliance as well as interdependence of States. While development was primarily a national responsibility, the international community also had a role to play. The completion of the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks and the creation of the World Trade Organization held out the prospect of significant benefits for the world economy, he added.

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The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) began its general debate on the world economic situation on Friday. Several speakers touched on the growing interdependence of the world economy and the role of the United Nations in addressing the causes and consequences of that phenomenon.

Algeria, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" countries and China, said most developing countries were not benefitting from improved economic

conditions. In restructuring the United Nations, the chronic lack of financial resources for operational activities for development must be dealt with. Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said such issues as poverty and the environment had taken on a global character. Human security was increasingly jeopardized by disasters and conflict, but the United Nations was not sufficiently addressing the causes of violent conflict.

Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said growing interdependence provided a chance to envisage a global and just human society. He called on Committee members not to lose sight of that historic opportunity.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched its winter aid programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is experiencing far fewer problems than in the past two winters. It cited several reasons for the improved situation: a halt in fighting across much of Bosnia enabled unprecedented access for aid convoys; a great deal of material was delivered in July and August; many supplies provided over the last two years remained useable; there have been fewer population displacements this year; and supplies of power, gas and water have been improved in many areas.

However, the UNHCR expressed concern regarding several problem areas, including Sarajevo, Gorazde, Srebrenica, Zepa and Bihac. Sarajevo receives more than 80 per cent of its aid from the UNHCR airlift, which has been interrupted several times in the past three months because of security problems. In the eastern enclaves of Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica, UNHCR was able to deliver only about 30 per cent of requirements in September, and only slightly more in August.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1748
11 October 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Chairman of Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq says latest report is fundamentally positive, notwithstanding recent events.

+ Myanmar says human rights cannot be violated behind barrier of non-interference, but should not be used for political ends; Uganda, Zambia, Trinidad and Tobago and Belarus among other speakers in General Assembly's general debate.

+ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines says international community must take forceful steps to combat drug trafficking; Mongolia, Bahamas, Chad, Equitorial Guinea and Bhutan also speak in yesterday's general debate.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends that General Assembly authorize Secretary-General to commit $5.6 million for ONUSAL up to 30 November.

+ Special Political and Decolonization Committee elects Vice-Chairmen and hears petitioners on questions of Gibraltar and Guam.

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The Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, today said the latest report on measures to implement the plan for ongoing monitoring and verification of that country's facilities was fundamentally positive. He told correspondents at Headquarters that the system for monitoring and verification was provisionally operational, and that testing of its thoroughness and efficacy had begun. The six-month report, which would probably be discussed by the Council on Thursday, marked a very important stage in the evolution of the Commission's mandate.

Mr. Ekeus said the report had considerable significance in light of recent events. However, it was difficult to say how it would play into the political situation. The recent actions by Iraq gave cause for concern, and called into question the credibility of its stated intention to cooperate with the United Nations. He went on to say that the Special Commission had

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accounted for all of Iraq's long-range missiles, and that the country could not threaten the region with chemical weapons.

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Myanmar's Foreign Minister, Ohn Gyaw, told the General Assembly today that security and peace would be realized through development. In an era of growing globalization and interdependence, concerted efforts were needed to resolve economic and social problems. He supported the call made by the "Group of 77" developing countries and the Non-Aligned Movement for the Assembly to resume the stalled North-South dialogue. A constructive dialogue based on common interests and mutual benefits should enhance international economic cooperation and development.

Myanmar upheld and adhered to the basic norms of human rights enshrined in the United Nations Charter, he said. The principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs should be respected by all States. Attempts to use human rights to encroach on domestic jurisdictions should be avoided. Even as the international community sought universality of human rights, historical, cultural and religious diversity must not be forgotten. Human rights could not be violated behind the barrier of non-interference, but should not be used for political ends. While Myanmar was in the midst of transforming itself to a multi-party democracy with a market economy, the interests of the whole population must take precedence over the interests of the individual. Confrontation and incitement to instability must be avoided while the nation was in the process of reconciliation and reconsolidation.

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Paul Ssemogerere, Uganda's Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, noted that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had estimated the number of refugees and displaced persons worldwide at over 23 million and 26 million respectively. Africa accounted for a third of the total while Asia accounted for more than a quarter. The problem largely resulted from conflicts within nations. As a result, he welcomed the high priority given by the United Nations to the resolution of conflicts in Africa and elsewhere. Uganda was committed to making the Organization of African Unity (OAU) conflict-prevention mechanism effective.

Global economic trends continued to weigh against many developing countries, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa, he continued. External debt was a major impediment to development. For example, Uganda had a total external public sector debt of $2.9 billion -- more than 80 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Debt servicing cost $185 million -- almost 76 per cent of export earnings. The debt problem was aggravated by unfavorable terms of trade and the harmful socio-economic effects of stringent economic reforms. For economic reforms to succeed in countries like Uganda, creditors should take measures to reduce indebtedness, including substantial debt cancellation or conversion into grants and other innovative schemes.

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Zambian Foreign Minister Remmy Mushota said the achievement of majority rule in South Africa was the most positive development in the past year. Substantial international assistance was needed to consolidate democracy and to address the negative social and economic legacy of apartheid. A democratic, peaceful and prosperous South Africa would benefit southern Africa and the continent as a whole. He welcomed the peaceful resolution of the territorial dispute between Chad and Libya, and the positive developments in Burundi. He also commended the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for their commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the war in that country.

Those responsible for the genocide in Rwanda should be brought to trial through an international tribunal, he said. Peace, security and stability should be established to facilitate the repatriation of refugees. Substantial assistance was needed for rehabilitation and reconstruction. He expressed regret at the delay in bringing the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) up to its authorized strength of 5,500 troops. African countries had been ready to send sufficient troops, but had been constrained by a lack of logistical support. Zambia had contributed civilian and military personnel, while the Zambian Peace Corps had raised funds to purchase medicines, food and other humanitarian supplies for displaced Rwandans.

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Ralph Maraj, Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, said regional cooperation was flowering through the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Andean Pact, the Central American Integration Movement, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Rio Group, and the Organization of American States (OAS). This year, his country had established diplomatic relations with six countries in Latin America; it now had diplomatic relations with all the countries in the Western Hemisphere.

He welcomed the international cooperation in Haiti, and said the Caribbean region had a special responsibility towards that country. Trinidad and Tobago had contributed troops to the multinational force, and hoped that the talents and resourcefulness of Haitians could be channelled towards rebuilding their nation and fighting poverty. Meanwhile, Cuba and the United States should resolve their differences through dialogue. The Cuba-CARICOM Mixed Commission had been established with a view to that country's reintegration into the Hemisphere. Cuba had recently joined the Association of Caribbean States as a founding member. He welcomed the International Law Commission's approval of a draft statute for an international criminal court. No State could hope to address the problems of transnational crime, terrorism, drug abuse, drug trafficking and money laundering on its own.

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Prime Minister Mikhail Chygir of Belarus said that after decades of totalitarianism, his country was gradually returning freedom to its people. The adoption of a new Constitution and the first free presidential election were significant milestones for Belarus. However, it had inherited an economy with excessive military production and high internal and external debt. The situation was aggravated by the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and by drought this year. Belarus had drafted a programme to overcome the crisis which would form the basis of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). His country planned full liberalization of trade and prices, privatization, and stabilization of the monetary system.

As the first State in history to voluntarily and unconditionally renounce nuclear weapons, Belarus supported the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, he said. It also favoured multilateral discussion on the regulation of the international arms market. Reducing nuclear and conventional arsenals required enourmous expenditures, and Belarus expected international support for that undertaking. He went on to say that the success of reforms in countries in transition would depend to a large extent on such support.

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Alpian Allen, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, told the General Assembly yesterday that the international community must respond more seriously to the problems of developing countries. Urgent consideration must be given to such measures as revitalizing growth and access to markets; reducing debt and the debt service burden; and increasing official development assistance (ODA). The role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for economic and social development must be strengthened. However, that did not mean creating new bureaucracies and institutions; it required reacting quickly to established needs.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines faced a major problem in addressing the illicit production, trafficking and consumption of drugs, he continued. The nature of the country, with its many bays and mountainous terrain, attracted many visitors and generated scarce foreign exchange, but worked against the war against the drug barons. Nevertheless, forceful steps had been taken to combat drug trafficking. His Government supported every measure taken by the United Nations to cope with the problem and called for continued efforts in that regard.

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Tserenpiliin Gombosuren, Mongolia's Foreign Minister, expressed the hope that the discussion on the Secretary-General's Agenda for Development would lead to measures to combat poverty, the external debt burden and environmental degradation. Industrialized countries should allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance (ODA), while developing countries should allocate 20 per cent of their budgets for social

priorities. South-South cooperation was vital for the sustainable development and self-reliance of developing countries. The establishment of the "South Centre" could strengthen that cooperation.

Mongolia relied on the active support of the donor community and international organizations as it pursued reform, he said. Economic decline and inflation were being checked, and the currency was being stabilized. However, living standards continued to decline, while poverty and unemployment were rising. Regional peace and stability was also important, particularly for small states. The improvement of Russian-Chinese relations and cooperation was a positive development. Bold steps were needed to solve problems regarding the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty in 1995. Meanwhile, non-nuclear-weapons States needed credible security assurances.

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Orville Turnquest, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General of The Bahamas, said the influx of Haitian refugees had stretched his country's education, health and welfare resources to the limit. He appreciated the General Assembly's recognition of the absolute need to respond forcibly to the brutality of the military dictatorship in Haiti. The international community must now dedicate sufficient funding and expertise to that country's economic reconstruction. Citing the situations in Haiti, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Rwanda, he said the international community must address the root causes of crises. The real threat to future security was no longer military aggression but deteriorating economic conditions.

Regarding the restructuring of the United Nations, he said it was essential that the Security Council reflect as accurately as possible the wishes of the entire international community. The Council's composition should reflect regional diversity so as to enhance the legitimacy of its actions. He went on to say that it was the Organization's duty to facilitate the efforts of small States to arrive at just and equitable solutions to international differences. That was especially important when such differences involved political and economic giants. In that regard, the Bahamas supported a review of the Republic of China's exclusion from United Nations membership.

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Ahmat Abderamane Haggar, Chad's Foreign Minister, said the various United Nations initiatives and conferences on development, including the Secretary-General's Agenda for Development, deserved special consideration at the Assembly's current session. External debt, falling commodity prices and the problem of market access caused serious difficulties for developing countries, particularly those in Africa. Those concerns would be an important part of the agenda for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

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The process of democratization was continuing in Chad, he went on to say. A framework agreement had been consolidated to include collaboration on the framing of a constitution, the facilitation of elections and the establishment of the Committee for National Reconciliation. Progress had also been made on the protection of human rights. In the last four years, independent newspapers had been established and political parties and unions had been organized. However, a campaign of false information had been launched by certain forces which were distorting the facts about the process of democratization. He invited non-governmental organizations and others to come to Chad to see what the Government was doing. Noting that Chad's border dispute with Libya had been resolved by the International Court of Justice, he said the victory of negotiation over confrontation was a sign of hope.

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Don Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Equatorial Guinea, said the United Nations remained the ideal framework for resolving complex international problems. His country was maintaining a policy of good neighbourliness towards others in the region. It had also been strengthening structures that guaranteed political and other freedoms. Laws had been enacted to allow for the democratization process, and 14 political organizations were now operating freely. There were also laws covering freedom of expression and religion. Equatorial Guinea was today a free, democratic and independent country where peace and stability prevailed.

The solidarity of the industrialized countries was needed to resolve the debt crisis of the developing countries, he continued. Debt conversion was one option to be considered. The developed countries were responsible for the deteriorating ecosystem, and should provide compensation to countries which were being asked not to utilize their natural resources in order to protect the environment. He went on to say that his country was giving the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic due attention, but that more support from the international community was necessary.

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Ugyen Tshering of Bhutan said his country supported the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) beyond 1995 and the negotiation of a comprehensive test ban. He urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue negotiations on the nuclear issue and to comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreement. He also urged all States to participate in the United Nations Arms Register of Conventional Weapons, adding that it should be expanded to cover not only trade, but manufacture and stockpiling.

The relationship between the General Assembly and other United Nations organs must be placed in proper perspective, he continued. It was a mistake to think that the Assembly and the Security Council functioned like the legislature and the executive of a government. In reality, the Council was the only body of authority in the United Nations, and the Assembly was explicitly forbidden to interfere in its work unless so requested. The case

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for reform was overwhelming. The Council must be expanded to reflect the new realities and to make it more representative. Deeper structural flaws must be addressed to make it more accountable.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to commit $5.6 million gross ($5 million net) for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for the period to 30 November. It took that action without a vote, after deliberating on the financing of the Mission and on the scale of assessments for apportioning United Nations expenses.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would express concern over the lack of reporting on the Mission's performance, and request the Secretary-General to present a report for the period 1 December 1993 to 31 May 1994. It would also ask for a response to the request by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for a clear analysis of police and civilian personnel needs.

During discussions on the scale of assessments, Indonesia said it opposed the use of the purchasing power parity method to calculate the scale of assessments. The method had been developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for its own uses. The present use of market exchange rates was the best way to compare national incomes. However, Malaysia said that the use of exchange rates in calculating national incomes and converting them to United States dollars could lead to distortions. Exchange rates could be volatile and did not reflect the purchasing power of currencies.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) today elected Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea) and Abelardo Moreno-Fernandez (Cuba) as Vice-Chairmen, and heard petitioners on the questions of Gibraltar and Guam.

Joe Bossano, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, said there was no hope of achieving decolonization through negotiations between the United Kingdom, the colonial Power, and Spain, which sought to annex Gibraltar, unless the people's right to self-determination were respected. The proposed resolution on Gibraltar, which only called for negotiations between the two Powers, was an effort to qualify the United Nations commitment to decolonization and self-determination.

Petitioners on the question of Guam opposed the "in-migration" policy of the United States, the administering Power, which had resulted in the Chamorro people becoming a minority in their own homeland. They also objected to that Power's land policies, which had resulted in its owning over one third of the island.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1749
12 October 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As General Assembly concludes general debate, Secretary-General says United Nations cannot operate effectively because of precarious financial situation.

+ General Assembly President says general debate revealed international community's frustration over unkept promises of peace; Guinea-Bissau, Belize, Saint Lucia, Burundi and Grenada make statements today.

+ Comoros says Africa's economic situation constitutes permanent threat to international community; Sweden, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Marshall Islands, Niger and Botswana among other speakers in yesterday's general debate.

+ UNHCR cancels 21 relief flights into Sarajevo after two mortar rounds land on airport; two UNPROFOR planes hit by small-arms fire.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reiterated his concern at the precarious financial situation of the United Nations. Addressing the General Assembly as it concluded its general debate, he said the Organization had very limited cash reserves and could not operate effectively in the current circumstances. "This is no longer simply a financial question; it is an urgent political question", he stressed.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations had debts exceeding $1.7 billion at the end of August. It owed $1 billion to Member States for peace-keeping contributions, $400 million to vendors and suppliers, and $325 million for previous budget surpluses. The Organization needed $400 million each month to cover its costs, but had only $375 million in cash balances. Meanwhile, it was owed $3.2 billion by Member States.

Many States were late in paying assessed contributions, he continued. At the end of August, only 56 had paid their regular budget assessments in full. A month later, 62 States had made no payment. The process of approving

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peace-keeping budgets and appropriations was another problem. Months passed between the Security Council's approval of an operation and the receipt of contributions for it. Because of late and delayed payments, the United Nations had to delay its own payments to Member States.

Another important element in the Organization's financial structure was the method of assessment, he said. Member States had endorsed three basic concepts: capacity to pay; the special responsibility of permanent Council members for peace-keeping expenses; and the use of objective criteria in realigning contributions. They might wish to review the practical application of those concepts in the apportionment of expenses, and consider whether the present scale of assessments was equitable. Annexed to his statement was a paper entitled, "Ensuring a Viable Financial Basis for the Organization".

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General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) today said the general debate had revealed the international community's frustration over promises not kept -- promises to build a world of peace after the cold war. He cited the increase in regional conflicts and civil wars, against a backdrop of religious and ethnic tensions. He welcomed the support expressed for preventive diplomacy, and the interest shown in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace.

Many speakers had focused on economic and social development, and the need for practical measures to implement the Agenda for Development, he noted. Regarding United Nations reform, speakers had focused on increasing the number of permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council. On the eve of its fiftieth anniversary, the United Nations must adapt to international changes. Member States must enable the Organization to pursue its mission as a unique instrument for international peace, security and development.

* * *

Marcelino Lima, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, told the General Assembly today that his country was committed to the promotion of an international system based on human values. Africa was currently the region most effected by conflicts, and more than half of the recent United Nations peace-keeping operations had been sent there. He called on the parties to the conflicts in Angola and Somalia to work for lasting peace settlements. He welcomed the progress achieved with regard to Western Sahara and expressed support for the efforts of the Secretary-General.

Guinea-Bissau had recently had democratic elections, and would count on international support for the further development of democracy, he continued. He welcomed the conclusion of the Convention on Desertification, noting that his country was greatly effected by that phenomenon, and the success of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The

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breakthrough on trade should benefit developing countries. It was necessary to revise the present unbalanced economic order and to deal with the external indebtedness of those countries.

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Dean Barrow, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Economic Development and Attorney-General of Belize, today said that his country had been the first small State to agree to participate in the multinational force in Haiti. Belize was interested in the establishment of stand-by forces for peace-keeping, and was willing to host a regional training centre for them. He noted that the process of democratization was continuing across the region. In Guatemala, a plebiscite, congressional elections and an agreement between the Government and the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) had strengthened internal order.

Belize was in the process of adjusting to changing economic circumstances and was trying to restore fiscal discipline following the profligate behaviour of the Government between 1989 and 1993, he continued. The Bretton Woods institutions had a duty to respond to the country's special circumstances. Funds must be provided for skills training, human resource development and poverty alleviation, particularly for small democracies undertaking voluntary structural adjustment. He noted that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) had made progress towards sub-regional integration and cooperation. Belize was ideally situated to assist in bringing together various sub-regions.

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William George Mallet, Saint Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, expressed support for the Secretary-General's efforts to promote greater regional involvement in conflict resolution. Saint Lucia was proud to be a participant in the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), along with other countries of the Caribbean Community. Cuba's isolation from economic and social development in the region needed to be re-examined. The agreement with the United States on immigration should lead to further dialogue between the two countries.

He called attention to the circumstances of small island States and the need for special measures to cope with them, noting that Saint Lucia was highly dependent on banana exports. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization offered benefits for some developed countries, but developing countries still feared the retention of certain trade barriers. Moreover, the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) had not expressly taken into account the limited industrial bases of small States. The deterioration of their fragile economies would lead to social discontent, he warned.

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Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, Burundi's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, told the General Assembly today that his country had suffered the

loss of two Presidents in six months. The assassination of President Ndadaye in October 1993 had led to political and ethnic massacres and severely tested the democratic process. President Ntaryamira had died in an aircraft accident last April, which also took the life of the President of Rwanda. The resulting crisis had exacerbated existing problems, but the people had not succumbed to despair. Burundi's political parties had reached an Agreement in September to establish legal mechanisms and State bodies. The formation of a coalition Government allowed for the re-establishment of security and confidence and promoted the return of refugees.

The United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had played a decisive role in the settlement of differences, he said. However, Burundi's political problems could only be solved in the sub-regional context. He hoped that those guilty of massacres in Rwanda would be brought to justice, and encouraged the Rwandese Government to pursue a policy of reconciliation and to ensure the return of all refugees. The Rwandese crisis had had regrettable consequences for its neighbours, including Burundi, which had ethnic, linguistic and cultural similarities with Rwanda. He proposed the convening of an international conference on peace, stability and development in the area of the African Great Lakes. It was necessary to deal with the refugee problem, and to establish mechanisms to promote stability and social and economic development.

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Eugene Pursoo of Grenada expressed support for the action taken by the United States and the multinational force in Haiti. The illegal seizure of power by the military had been ended, diplomacy had prevailed and further bloodshed had been averted. He noted that Grenada had implemented a structural adjustment programme to correct fiscal imbalances and promote sustained growth. Some success had been achieved; fiscal deficits had been reduced and the World Bank had restored the country's credit rating. However, targets for gross domestic product (GDP) growth had not been met. Over the next two years, emphasis would be placed on achieving a reasonable rate of growth.

The United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and its programme of action had underscored the urgent need for international cooperation and assistance, he said. Grenada looked forward to the fulfilment of obligations assumed by the developed countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). However, environmental causes should not be used to prevent developing countries from gaining access to the markets of the developed economies. He went on to say that protection of the rights of children required greater attention. Emphasis should continue to be placed on the pivotal role of the family in national and global development.

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Said Mohamed Sagaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Comoros, told the General Assembly yesterday that Africa's destitution was a

permanent threat to the entire international community. The international economic situation did not allow any hope for the continent, but political stability required economic growth. Developing countries were bearing the brunt of a deteriorating world trade situation and were experiencing a net outflow of capital and a crushing debt burden. The gap between the developed and developing countries reduced the effect of economic recovery in the former. He stressed that cooperation between North and South was vital for global economic growth. Meanwhile, developing countries must cooperate on a regional basis.

Comoros had worked for a democratic and open society in order to bring about economic recovery, he said. A new Constitution had been promulgated last December and a new Parliament had been elected. Comoros had also signed a programme of structural adjustment, but effective international support was needed for economic recovery. He went on to endorse the General Assembly decision on the Comorian island of Mayotte. The Comorian authorities had always been willing to negotiate with France for the return of the island, but France had always opposed dialogue. France was prolonging its administrative presence there and trying to separate four islands that belonged together. For Comoros, the matter was of sovereign importance.

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Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallén yesterday told the General Assembly that the situation in Rwanda highlighted the need for preventive diplomacy, early action and coordination of United Nations efforts. The break-up of society in Somalia and the ensuing violence highlighted the need for careful coordination of peace-keeping, peacemaking and peace-building efforts. The Organization should take enforcement action only as a last resort and with a clear Security Council mandate. Efforts to end the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be intensified, with increased pressure on the Bosnian Serbs. She expressed concern about the reported Iraqi military activity near the Kuwaiti border, and support for the Security Council statement on the situation.

The issue of enlargement of the Security Council and the need to make its work more transparent required urgent attention, she continued. Stressing the importance of early warning and early action in conflict resolution, she said Sweden was ready to establish a peace-keeping brigade, in response to the Secretary-General's proposal for stand-by forces. Her country's development cooperation would focus on support for the sustainable development of poor countries, with special emphasis on democracy, popular participation and the rights of women. Sweden would continue to allocate a substantial amount of assistance to the operational activities of the United Nations and would continue efforts to strengthen the Organization's role as a forum for discussion and action and as a channel for development cooperation.

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Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle of Lesotho said that while the United Nations might not have the ability to predict events, it should have the

capacity to respond rapidly and effectively to crisis situations. The world community's apparent inability to react decisively to such situations in Africa showed that the continent could not continue to delegate its responsibility to the rest of the world. He noted that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had established a mechanism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. However, Africa would continue to count on international solidarity and cooperation in the mechanism's trial stages.

On 17 August, he continued, the people of Lesotho had been told that certain clauses of the country's Constitution had been suspended and, as a result of that illegal and arbitrary act, that the democratically elected Parliament and Government of Lesotho had purportedly been dissolved. Despite the repressive measures taken by those who had intruded upon constitutional order, the people had risen up in support of democracy. He thanked the United Nations and the OAU for supporting his Government and the people of Lesotho in the struggle to maintain democratic rule. Through the mediation efforts of the Presidents of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana, Lesotho had survived the unfortunate constitutional crisis.

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Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister, Nathan Shamuyarira, said that while the triumph of democracy in South Africa was a cause for celebration, other crises in Africa continued to be of major concern. If the Angolan peace accord were not signed by the end of October, the Security Council should immediately impose economic sanctions on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Somalia should take full advantage of United Nations peace-keeping efforts and Organization of African Unity (OAU) mediation to forge a political settlement based on power-sharing. Meanwhile, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) should be strengthened to assure displaced persons that they could safely return home.

International effforts to promote peace, stability and security could be largely facilitated through regional organizations, he continued. Consistent with the OAU mechanism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had given Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe the task of undertaking an initiative to resolve the recent crisis in Lesotho. That initiative had led to the restoration of constitutional order there. Similar arrangements could also be used to address the situations in Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia. However, the United Nations and regional organizations must provide financial and material assistance to sustain them.

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Carlos Morales-Troncoso, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, said the world was marked by economic globalization, tension between nations, and ethnic and religious conflicts. The use of force to resolve situations was no longer appropriate. The international community should examine how to achieve and strengthen democracy in order to deal with hunger, drug trafficking, forced migration and trade protectionism, which

undermined development. States were economically interdependent, and developed countries needed the markets of developing countries. However, the world was witnessing a resurgence of neo-protectionism. While tariffs were being dismantled, environmental, social and customs barriers were being raised.

Development policies must promote modernization of production and infrastructure, which required new technology, he continued. Social development was also needed, as health education and housing brought economic gains. The world was already threatened by environmental degradation, and must not be overburdened in the process of development. He went on to say that Haiti -- the poorest nation in the hemisphere -- needed international assistance and cooperation to promote peace and development. He expressed concern at the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) -- which was headquartered in the Dominican Republic -- and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

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Foreign Minister Bolong Sonko of Gambia said that abuses of political power and public office and serious corruption had necessitated the removal of the former Gambian government and its replacement by the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council. That action was politically necessary for the establishment of an equitable democratic political system. The new Government would set up institutions that would provide the necessary checks and balances to enhance the democratic process. He noted that his country subscribed to several international human rights instruments and would continue to respect its obligations under them. The Government was committed to returning the country to civilian control after addressing its fundamental weaknesses.

He expressed hope that the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) would encourage the Liberian factions to disarm without delay. International assistance would continue to be needed to restore peace, stability, law and order in Rwanda and to ensure the return of refugees and displaced persons. The international community's failure to broker peace and reconciliation in Somalia should not deter further efforts in that regard. He stressed that now was not the time withdraw the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II).

* * *

Philip Muller, Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands, welcomed the General Assembly's recent adoption of the agreement on the implementation of Part XI of the Law of the Sea Convention regarding deep seabed mining. That action would help bring order to the exploitation of marine resources. The United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks was also important as it promoted the responsible use of marine resources. Marshall Islands had to ensure the sustainable exploitation of its fisheries resources, within or without its exclusive economic zone.

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He went on to say that dangerous residual radioactive contaminants from the United States nuclear-testing programme remained a problem for his country. Sixty-seven bombs had been detonated, but the full extent of the resulting contamination had not been disclosed by the United States during the negotiation of the Compact of Free Association. The cleanup and disposal of nuclear contamination would be very costly, and the party responsible for it should provide the necessary funds and technical assistance. An international facility on a remote, uninhabited atoll of Marshall Islands could be used for the safe, permanent disposal of a portion of the world's dangerous nuclear material. His Government had resolved to conduct a preliminary feasibility study for such a facility and to consult closely with interested members of the international community.

* * *

Adamou Seydou of Niger yesterday welcomed the conclusion of the Convention on Desertification, and urged all Member States to sign it. As a developing country, Niger was facing many economic difficulties. Variations in rainfall were a serious problem; there had been insufficient rainfall last year, but too much this year. His country had launched a major project to erect a dam at Kandadji on the Niger River -- the first of its kind -- so as not to be at the mercy of the weather. That project required international support. Following negotiations at Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, his Government had signed a Peace Agreement with the rebel army in northern Niger, which envisioned a cease-fire and a normalization of the situation in the region. That Agreement had just come into force, and Niger was looking forward to national reconciliation.

He expressed concern about the accumulation and development of arms. As a producer of uranium, Niger had ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and supported its universal extension. If the resources spent on peace-keeping were allotted to development, much good could be accomplished. He went on to say that Africa's economic prospects remained bleak. Debt prevented Niger and other developing countries from building an economic foundation. Cancellation of debt would lead to progress in development. The developing countries also needed a true development fund.

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Legwaila Joseph Legwaila of Botswana said that while he could understand the international community's frustration with the situation in Somalia, it would be unthinkable for the United Nations to simply abandon the country. The decision to withdraw the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) must be carefully weighed against the consequences of the vacuum it would create. He warned that the Economic Community of West African States' Monitoring Observer Group (ECOMOG) might soon run out of the means and the will to persist in the seemingly impossible task of saving Liberia from itself.

In the past two decades, Botswana had experienced unprecedented economic growth and had become Africa's success story, he continued. That success was the result of a stable democratic political system and a free market economy.

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As Africa engaged in economic and political reforms, the support and cooperation of the donor community and the multilateral financial institutions was needed. Regrettably, structural adjustment programmes had often worsened conditions for the poor in the short-term. He was encouraged by the ongoing process of reform and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today cancelled 21 flights into Sarajevo after the airport there was hit by two mortar rounds yesterday, according to a spokesman for the Organization. In addition, United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) planes were hit by small-arms fire yesterday and again today. The UNHCR said it hoped to resume flights into the city tomorrow if the situation stabilized.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs authorized six ground convoys destined for different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, they refused permission for another nine, giving various "bureaucratic" reasons, the spokesman said.

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ED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1750
13 October 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ IAEA says all elements of its monitoring and verification plan for Iraq are in place; notes cooperation and support of Iraqi authorities.

+ General Assembly considers annual report of International Court of Justice and question of Security Council representation.

+ General Committee recommends that General Assembly include new sub-item on emergency assistance for Afghanistan on current agenda; An Agenda for Development to be considered in special high-level plenary meetings.

+ Secretary-General expresses appreciation for Panama's decision to give asylum to former Haitian military leaders and their families.

+ General Assembly President welcomes Peace Agreement signed by Government of Niger and CRA Touaregs; says it should be inspiration for resolution of other conflicts in Africa.

+ United Nations to mark World Food Day -- 16 October -- and International Day for Eradication of Poverty -- 17 October -- with special ceremonies next week.

+ European/North American regional preparatory meeting for 1995 World Conference on Women to be held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that with its establishment of a continuous presence in Iraq, all elements of the plan for ongoing monitoring and verification of the country's facilities are now in place. In a report dated 6 October, the Agency said monitoring and verification measures would evolve as technical needs arose and as advanced technologies became available. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a note dated 10 October, and discussed by the Council this morning.

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For information media—not an official record

The last two rounds of high-level technical talks between the IAEA and the United Nations Special Commission, on the one hand, and Iraq, on the other, marked a turning point in the level of cooperation and support extended by the Iraqi authorities, according to the report. That change enabled inspection work to be conducted effectively and expedited the monitoring and verification process. Iraq had assured the Agency and the Special Commission that it would respect their rights and priveleges, while they had reiterated their commitment to carry out their tasks in a manner that respected the country's legitimate concerns relating to sovereignty, independence, security and dignity.

Implementation of the monitoring and verification plan did not mean that the IAEA had foreclosed its right to investigate any aspect of Iraq's former nuclear weapons programme, the report stressed.

* * *

The President of the International Court of Justice, Mohammed Bedjaoui, today appealed to Member States to review their criteria for use of the Court and to recognize that a referral to it of a legal aspect of a broader political dispute might calm the situation. Introducing the Court's annual report to the General Assembly, he said its credibility as a means to settle disputes peacefully was largely in the hands of States. When they were as ready to have recourse to it as any other political organ, the Court would have achieved such credibility.

Also today, the Assembly began considering the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters. Brazil said enlargement of the membership was no longer a matter of "whether or not", but rather of "how large and how soon". Among the factors to be considered in that regard were: adequate participation of both industrialized and developing countries; increase of permanent and non-permanent seats; adequate representation of regional groups; and the capability of members to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Malaysia called for the abolition of the veto power, saying the veto undermined the principle of sovereign equality and the concept of collective security. It also marginalized the role of the non-permanent members of the Council.

* * *

The General Committee today recommended that the General Assembly include a new sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" on the agenda for its current session. That sub-item would be added to an item on strengthening the coordination of United Nations humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, and would be considered directly in plenary.

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The Committee recommended that the item entitled "An Agenda for Development" be considered in special plenary meetings at a high level, and that subsequent negotiation on it take place in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial). It also recommended that the agenda item entitled "Observer status for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the General Assembly" be considered directly in plenary.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the decision of the President of Panama, Ernesto Pérez Balladares, to give asylum to Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras and Brigadier-General Philippe Biamby, former Commander-in-Chief and Chief of Staff of the Haitian Armed Forces, respectively, together with their families. In facilitating their departure from Haiti, Panama was rendering valuable assistance to efforts to implement Security Council resolution 940 (1994), he said.

* * *

General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) yesterday expressed satisfaction at the signing of a Peace Agreement on 9 October at Ouagadougou by the Government of Niger and the Touaregs of the Coordination de la résistance armée (CRA). He commended the parties for their courage and high sense of responsibility, and said the Agreement was an important step towards the restoration of peace in that part of Africa. It should also provide inspiration for the resolution of other conflicts afflicting the continent.

* * *

The United Nations will mark World Food Day -- 16 October -- with a ceremony in the Economic and Social Council Chamber on 17 October. The theme for the Day is "Water for Life", reflecting the increasing scarcity and deteriorating quality of water worldwide. The ceremony will be addressed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire). Prime Minister James Fitz-Allen Mitchell of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will deliver the keynote address.

Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) biennial conference in 1979, World Food Day is observed to increase awareness of the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty and to stimulate action to feed the world. The Day also marks the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.

The United Nations will also observe International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October with an outdoor event combining music and testimony. This year's commemoration will highlight 1994 as International Year of the Family by raising world awareness of the contribution of the family to fighting poverty. It is being sponsored by the Department of Public Information, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations and the International Movement Fourth World.

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High-level representatives from Europe and North America will attend a regional preparatory meeting for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Vienna from 17 to 21 October. With the theme "Women in a changing world -- call for action from a regional perspective", it will be the first such meeting in the region to address women's concerns. It is being organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in cooperation with United Nations agencies, national committees, European institutions and non-governmental organizations.

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D NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1751
14 October 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in presidential statement, expresses concern at plight of refugees and displaced persons in Rwanda and neighbouring countries; deplores attempts to prevent them from returning home.

+ Secretary-General says international community is morally obliged to ensure that Rwanda tragedy is not repeated in Burundi; stresses that prevention is much less costly than action after the fact.

+ Twelve Somali factions and organizations sign declaration calling for convening of national reconciliation conference on 27 October; Special Representative for Somalia urges leaders to intensify consultations.

+ Secretary-General and General Assembly President congratulate Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat on receipt of Nobel Peace Prize.

+ International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia to hold first public hearing in The Hague on 18 October; to consider application for deferral regarding case under investigation in Germany.

+ Disarmament and International Security Committee to launch substantive debate on Monday with address by Secretary-General.

+ General Assembly to hold International Conference on Families on 18 October.

+ UNHCR resumes humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo; 14 flights reach city today.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed concern at the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons in Rwanda and other countries in the region. In a statement read out by its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), the Council deplored the continuing intimidation and violence designed to prevent refugees from returning home. It called on the Governments of Zaire, United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi to do all in their power to ensure the safety of the refugees and of international humanitarian personnel.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council stressed the important role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), saying its presence was crucial to creating conditions of security. It welcomed the Secretary-General's revised deployment schedule for UNAMIR, which would promote security in all sectors of the country and create conditions conducive to the return of refugees.

The Council welcomed the Rwandese Government's commitment to national reconciliation and the promotion of respect for fundamental rights. It endorsed the Secretary-General's call to the Government to maintain an open dialogue with all political groups. The Council affirmed the importance of avoiding reprisals against returnees and safeguarding their property rights. It welcomed the speed with which the Government had responded to allegations that Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) soldiers might have been responsible for systematic killings and underlined the importance of thorough investigations of those allegations.

The Council reaffirmed its view that those responsible for serious breaches of international humanitarian law and acts of genocide must be brought to justice. It stressed that persons involved in such acts could not achieve immunity from prosecution by fleeing the country and could not be considered refugees. The Council said it would act expeditiously regarding recommendations on the establishment of an international tribunal.

* * *

The international community is morally obliged to ensure that the tragic events in Rwanda are not repeated in Burundi, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said that while the people of Burundi held the key to the country's political and security problems, they deserved material and moral support. The price of prevention was minimal compared with the exorbitant expenditure needed to deal with a tragedy. He made those comments in a report to the Security Council dated 11 October.

The Secretary-General repeated suggestions he had made to the Council on 19 August: the establishment of a humanitarian base at Bujumbura airport; the maintenance of a military presence in Zaire capable of rapid intervention in Burundi, subject to the approval of the Zairean Government; increasing technical assistance for reconstruction; deploying human rights observers to facilitate national reconciliation; strengthening the office of the Special Representative for Burundi to help prepare the national debate scheduled for early 1995; organizing a regional summit of countries that would be seriously affected by an explosion in Burundi; and more visits by eminent persons from abroad to assure that country's people that they had not been forgotten.

The new coalition Government of Burundi now had to begin the task of national reconstruction and reconciliation, the Secretary-General continued. The country would thus need international support more than ever. He welcomed the decision by donors to coordinate investment efforts and their desire to help Burundi to revive its economy and encourage the return of refugees. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank would organize a round table in Geneva in the first quarter of 1995 to help those efforts.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Victor Gbeho, today urged Somali leaders to intensify consultations with a view to convening a national reconciliation conference by the end of the month. Twelve factions and organizations this morning signed a declaration calling for the conference to be convened on 27 October.

The Special Representative stressed that the United Nations would extend all necessary assistance for the conference, which should include representatives of all the recognized Somali factions.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) today expressed their delight at the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, and Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The Secretary-General commended the three leaders for their courage, dedication and imagination, and for the important results they had achieved. He renewed his commitment to support their efforts to build a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

* * *

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia will hold its first public hearing in The Hague, Netherlands, on Tuesday, 18 October. A Trial Chamber will consider an application for deferral in the case of Dusan Tadic, which is currently being investigated in Germany. The application, which was presented this week by the Prosecutor, Justice Richard Goldstone, proposes that the German court be formally requested to defer to the competence of the International Tribunal.

In his application, Justice Goldstone said the Tadic case was important to the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the Prijedor region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Criminal acts allegedly committed by Mr. Tadic, prior to and after the Serbian take-over of the area, would clearly illustrate a plan for widespread and systematic destructive persecution of the civilian population of the region, commonly referred to as "ethnic cleansing".

* * *

The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) will begin its substantive debate on Monday, during which it will discuss nuclear proliferation and disarmament, and efforts to contain the spread of conventional weapons. The Committee is scheduled to hear an address by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, who will share his views on the situation in the field of disarmament and on further steps to promote international peace and security.

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The Committee's agenda contains 22 items, including a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty; a treaty banning the production of fissile material; the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and preventing an arms race in outer space. It will also discuss security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States; reduction of military budgets; transparency in armaments; illicit arms transfers; and a moratorium on the export of land mines.

The Committee will consider reports from various components of the United Nations disarmament machinery, such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, and the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

* * *

The General Assembly will hold an International Conference on Families at Headquarters on Tuesday, 18 October. High-level officials from various countries will discuss the status of activities in observance of the International Year of the Family -- 1994 -- and set directions for the implementation of a long-term plan of action.

The Conference will be addressed by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire). The Secretary-General will submit the draft plan of action to the Assembly's fiftieth session next year.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has resumed its humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, and 14 flights landed there today, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The UNHCR hopes to bring 460 metric tons of food into the city in a large convoy tomorrow, although clearance has not yet been received from the Bosnian Serbs.

The UNHCR suspended its airlift on Wednesday after Sarajevo airport was hit by two mortar rounds, and after two United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) aircraft were hit by small-arms fire.

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D NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1752
17 October 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted on Saturday, condemns recent Iraqi military deployment towards Kuwaiti border; demands that Iraq immediately complete its withdrawal and refrain from threatening its neighbours.

+ Russian Foreign Minister says Iraq has agreed to need to recognize Kuwaiti sovereignty without preconditions; United States says crisis is not over.

+ Security Council welcomes return of President Aristide to Haiti and subsequent lifting of sanctions against country; envisages rapid return of International Civilian Mission.

+ Secretary-General says return of President Aristide and resumption of democratic process herald new era for Haitian people; pledges United Nations support in meeting future challenges.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNOSOM II mandate until 31 March 1995; Special Representative for Somalia to continue efforts to aid reconciliation.

+ Secretary-General, in World Food Day address, says problems of hunger and malnutrition are of increasing global concern; food security is part of sustainable development challenge.

+ General Assembly President says goal of International Day for Eradication of Poverty is achievable, not utopian.

+ Secretary-General tells First Committee that divisions must not be allowed to stifle progress in arms control and disarmament.

+ UNCTAD holds International Symposium on Trade and Efficiency in Columbus, Ohio; seeks to reduce trade costs by up to $100 billion annually.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ General Assembly authorizes Secretary-General to commit $5.6 million for operation of ONUSAL up to 30 November; concludes debate on Security Council reform.

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The Security Council has condemned Iraq's recent military deployments towards the border with Kuwait, and demanded that it immediately complete the withdrawal of all units to their original positions. The Council also demanded that Iraq not redeploy those units to the south or take any other action to enhance its military capacity in southern Iraq. The Council took that action on Saturday night by unanimously adopting resolution 949 (1994) under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

The Council demanded that Iraq refrain from using its forces in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten either its neighbours or United Nations operations in the country. It further demanded that Iraq cooperate fully with the United Nations Special Commission. The Council underlined that it would consider Iraq fully responsible for the serious consequences of any failure to fulfil the demands in the resolution.

The Council welcomed all diplomatic and other efforts to resolve the crisis and noted that Iraq had confirmed its readiness to resolve the issue of recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and its borders as endorsed by resolution 833 (1993). The Council underlined that Iraq must unequivocally commit itself, by full and formal constitutional procedures, to respect Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity and borders.

United States representative Madeleine Albright warned that her country would take appropriate action if Iraq failed to comply with its obligations. Russian representative Vasiliy Sidorov said that following the emergency visit by his Foreign Minister to the region, Iraq had affirmed its intention to recognize the sovereignty of Kuwait. He appreciated that the resolution had been amended to reflect that effort to resolve the crisis.

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Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev today said that Iraq had for the first time agreed to the need to recognize the sovereignty of Kuwait without preconditions. He said the Security Council should be ready to lift the sanctions against Iraq if it complied with all Council demands. Mr. Kozyrev was reporting on his recent meeting with President Saddam Hussein, as the Council discussed the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. He went on to say that some Council members had made hasty judgements and misguided assessments, possibly because of the intensity of the crisis.

United States representative Madeleine Albright said that Iraq had threatened Kuwait, and that the crisis was not over despite signs of an Iraqi withdrawal from the border. The United States placed little value on Iraq's promise to recognize Kuwait. Kuwait must be recognized through formal constitutional procedures. The renunciation of Iraq's claim to Kuwait must be

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made by the Revolutionary Command Council and published in Iraq's Government gazette. Iraq should not be rewarded for partial cooperation with a lifting of some sanctions. It must satisfy the Council of its peaceful intentions before being accepted as a normal member of the international community.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, said Iraqi forces had never left Iraqi soil during the recent clamour. Meanwhile, his country had been cooperating with the United Nations Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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In another resolution adopted on Saturday, the Security Council welcomed the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti and the fact that sanctions against the country would be lifted at 0001 a.m. EST the next day. The Council expressed confidence that Haitians could now begin to rebuild their country with dignity and consolidate democracy in a spirit of national reconciliation. It particularly welcomed the fact that, with the convening of the Haitian Parliament and the departure of the military leadership, the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement, the New York Pact and United Nations objectives was under way. Resolution 948 (1994) was adopted by 14 votes in favour to none against, with one abstention (Brazil).

The Council expressed full support for the efforts of the legitimate Government to bring Haiti out of crisis and return it to the democratic community of nations. Commending the contributions of all States, organizations and individuals to that outcome, it recognized in particular the efforts of the multinational force in creating the conditions necessary for the return of democracy. The Council supported the deployment of the advance team of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and urged that cooperation continue between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), especially regarding the rapid return of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH).

Haitian representative Fritz Longchamp thanked the international community for aiding the return of President Aristide, and appealed for assistance to rebuild his country. Brazil's representative, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, said that as his Government had abstained from voting on resolution 940 (1994) over concerns relating to the deployment of the multinational force in Haiti, he could not retroactively endorse that mission by voting in favour of resolution 948.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the return of President Jean-Betrand Aristide to Haiti and the resumption of the democratic process in that country. In a statement issued on Saturday, he said a new era had begun for the Haitian people who, with the assistance of the international community, would now be able to rebuild their country on the solid foundations of reconciliation, freedom and human rights. The United Nations stood ready to help them meet the challenges of the future, he stressed.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) be extended until 31 March 1995. In a report on the situation in Somalia dated 14 October, he said the five-month extension would give Somali leaders time to consolidate any progress towards reconciliation. He noted that the Security Council had decided that the Operation should end next March, and said that the withdrawal of all personnel might take as long as 120 days and require extensive air and sea support from Member States.

The Secretary-General said he had instructed his Special Representative to continue to help Somali leaders achieve reconciliation, at least to the extent of agreeing to establish a transitional government. In the event that progress could be made in that direction, he would not hesitate to recommend the continuation of some United Nations presence in Somalia beyond March if that were justified by the overriding objective of restoring effective government.

It would be vital to maintain unified command and control if the withdrawal of UNOSOM II had to be carried out in hostile circumstances, the Secretary-General continued. Any unilateral attempts by States to withdraw their contingents could worsen the situation. He went on to say that the United Nations and the international community could continue to play a role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia if the country's leaders could create and maintain favourable security conditions.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that the problems of hunger and malnutrition were of increasing global concern. In an address marking World Food Day, he pointed out that more than 1.2 billion people -- mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia -- lived in abject poverty, and that two thirds of them were undernourished. Achieving food security would require an ever-widening cooperative effort. It was one dimension of the greatest global challenge -- the challenge of development.

The Secretary-General noted that the theme for World Food Day this year, "Water for Life", highlighted the links between food security and sustainable development. World water resources could probably meet the needs of the world population, but unequal distribution of rainfall, pollution and land degradation had resulted in unequal distribution of freshwater supplies, and led to scarcity in many poor countries. He called on the international community to make the management and protection of water resources an integral part of efforts to achieve sustainable development.

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The President of the General Assembly, Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire), today said that the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty marked the world community's growing commitment to fight against poverty and the damage

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it inflicted on the human body and spirit. That commitment was also reflected in the declaration of 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the convening, in March 1995, of the World Summit for Social Development, with the reduction and eradication of poverty as a central theme.

"To speak of the eradication of poverty may seem utopian, but we should aim at nothing less", he said. The world had sufficient resources to feed, clothe and house its population. Some societies had provided universal access to basic education and health care, and some had eradicated mass poverty. The task was therefore not impossible.

The first requirement for the fight against poverty was knowledge and understanding, he continued. We must educate ourselves and our communities concerning the extent and nature of poverty, its causes and consequences, and the strategies and actions that could reduce it. Secondly, we must give priority to the struggle against poverty in the least developed countries, particularly in Africa. Those countries could not overcome poverty without economic and social development at the national and community levels. The international community and the United Nations had a responsibility to assist them by providing access to markets, knowledge, technology and resources.

Thirdly, he went on to say, we must improve opportunities for women and children, who bore most of the burdens of poverty. Finally, the international community must exchange information on the global effort to eradicate poverty. While many actions to reduce poverty were essential, those four elements could form the basis of an effective international strategy.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today told the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) that divisions -- however real -- must not be allowed to stifle progress in arms control and disarmament. Such progress made the world more secure, and freed up economic, scientific and technological resources for peaceful ends. Arms control and disarmament agreements could also help prevent conflicts, and play an important role in peace-keeping and peacemaking.

The Secretary-General said he looked forward to the early entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Along with the Biological Weapons Convention and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), it would complete the triad of global Treaties on weapons of mass destruction. He called on Member States to support the indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT at the Renewal Conference in 1995. The early conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty was fundamental to real progress in nuclear disarmament and to the security of non-nuclear weapon States. A treaty banning the further production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices was also needed.

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The Secretary-General highlighted the need for a binding global agreement on security assurances. Non-nuclear weapon States wanted such assurances, and the nuclear-weapon States must make positive moves towards a binding, global agreement on the issue. All those efforts formed a global web of protection against weapons of mass destruction, and required the full commitment and practical participation of all Member States.

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The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is holding an International Symposium on Trade and Efficiency in Columbus, Ohio, this week. Some 90 trade ministers and thousands of other delegates from the public and private sectors worldwide will discuss proposals to improve efficiency in international trade which could reduce transaction costs by up to $100 billion annually by the year 2000.

The ministerial segment of the Symposium, from 19 to 21 October, will be officially opened by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The ministers are expected to adopt the "Columbus Declaration on Trade Efficiency", as well as a set of practical recommendations for immediate action in six key sectors: transport, trade information, telecommunications, business practices, customs and financial services. Those texts will constitute a blue print for international trade in the next century.

The five-day Symposium will also launch the Global Trade Point Network. By electronically connecting trade points worldwide, the network will become a major factor in the field of trade information and electronic trading.

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The General Assembly concluded its debate on reform of the Security Council on Friday, having heard various suggestions for expanding the membership. The Russian Federation supported a limited enlargement up to 20 members and preservation of the status of permanent members. The United Kingdom said any enlargement should be limited to 19 or 20 members, so that the Council's effectiveness would not be jeopardized. Certain countries, by virtue of their global interests and their contribution to international security and United Nations operations, should have permanent membership. The United Kingdom supported such membership for Japan and Germany.

Belarus said that if candidates for permanent membership assumed a greater share of the financial burden, consensus could be achieved more rapidly on the criteria for selection. The next step in increasing Council membership should be the creation of one additional non-permanent seat for each of the five regional groups. Zimbabwe said that as the goal of abolishing permanent membership and the veto might be a long way off, any transitional agreements must address the imbalances and injustices of existing arrangements. While the veto lasted, it should not be allowed to be used to promote or protect narrow national interests.

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Also on Friday, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to commit $5.6 million gross ($5 million net) for the operation of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for the period ending on 30 November. It expressed concern about the lack of reporting on the Mission's performance since 1 December 1993, and asked the Secretary-General to submit a report for the period from 1 December 1993 to 31 May 1994. The Assembly took that action by adopting, without a vote, a draft decision approved by its Fifth Committee.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1753
18 October 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council adopts annual report to General Assembly; held 143 formal meetings, adopted 87 resolutions and issued 68 Presidential statements between 16 June 1993 and 15 June 1994.

+ Liberia in desperate state after recent political, military and humanitarian developments, Secretary-General says; UNOMIL mandate should be extended for two months pending high-level consultations with ECOWAS.

+ Secretary-General reports very slow political progress in Abkhazia despite strenuous efforts by Special Envoy for Georgia.

+ IAEA Director-General tells General Assembly Iraq has no practical capability to produce nuclear weapons; South Pacific Forum to participate as observer in Assembly's work.

+ Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached in Geneva by Democratic People's Republic of Korea and United States.

+ Peace accord initialled by Israel and Jordan in Amman offers hope for comprehensive Middle East settlement in near future, Secretary-General says.

+ Human Rights Committee begins fifty-second session in Geneva; to consider state of civil and political rights in Nepal, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen and Libya.

+ General Assembly holds International Conference on Families; hears addresses by Secretary-General and Assembly President.

* * *

The Security Council today adopted its forty-ninth report to the General Assembly, covering the period 16 June 1993 to 15 June 1994. In that time, the Council held 143 formal meetings, adopted 87 resolutions and issued 68

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For information media—not an official record

Presidential statements. It held 252 consultations of the whole, and considered over 120 reports by the Secretary-General and more than 1,500 documents and communications from States and intergovernmental organizations.

Part I of the report deals with questions considered by the Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, including the situations in Haiti, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Part II deals with such matters as the admission of members and documentation, while Part III covers the work of the Military Staff Committee. Part IV lists communications on matters brought to the attention of the Council but not discussed in formal meetings.

The report also deals with subsidiary organs of the Council, including the Committees established with regard to the situations in South Africa, Libya and Somalia; the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, set up to review claims resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait; the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq; and the Commission of Experts on violations of humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. The International Tribunal on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia held three sessions in the Hague, and adopted rules of procedure and evidence, and rules on the detention of persons awaiting trial. Meanwhile, the Prosecutor's office began its investigations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that political, military and humanitarian developments in the past month have left Liberia in a desperate state. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 October, he said the peace process had stalled. Reports from all quarters suggested that there could be no military solution to the conflict, which threatened the stability of the subregion. The factions were able to sustain the fighting because of a continuing supply of arms and ammunition. Meanwhile, Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania had warned that they might withdraw their contingents from the Economic Community of West African States' Military Observer Group (ECOMOG).

The Secretary-General said he had decided to dispatch a high-level mission to consult with the Chairman of ECOWAS, President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, on the respective roles of ECOMOG and the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). He recommended that the Council extend UNOMIL's mandate for two months to give the high-level mission time to conduct its work and to present its conclusions.

The quest for peace could only be successful if the Liberians demonstrated that they were ready for genuine national reconciliation based on mutual respect and accomodation, he continued. However, while the responsibility for peace lay primarily with the Liberians themselves, the international community had not provided adequate material support for the regional peace effort through ECOMOG.

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Political progress in Abkhazia has been very slow despite strenuous efforts by the Special Envoy for Georgia and others, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 October, he said the Abkhaz unwillingness to accept an early return of refugees had created significant difficulties and had contributed to holding up progress on other issues.

The parties continued to demonstrate a commitment to negotiations on the return of refugees and displaced persons, but differences remained regarding the conditions and rhythm of the process, the report noted. However, they had agreed on the need to restore the necessary security conditions in the area to which the refugees would return. Progress on the refugee question would allow the Special Envoy to concentrate on negotiating the political status of Abkhazia, which was at the core of the conflict. Without advances in both those areas, tensions would continue to rise to the detriment of both sides.

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The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, told the General Assembly yesterday that Iraq had no practical capability to produce nuclear weapons. As the Assembly considered the 1993 IAEA report, he said that the Agency had conducted 26 inspections in Iraq since 1991, and that the country's clandestine nuclear weapons programme had been thoroughly investigated. The IAEA had also completed the destruction or removal of Iraq's weapons-useable materials, equipment and facilities.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Blix went on to say, the IAEA had found evidence suggesting the existence of unreported plutonium. No progress had been made in securing access to additional information and locations, as requested in 1993. The problem had been aggravated by the discharge of spent fuel without the appropriate safeguards. As long as the People's Republic was not providing full transparency through full acceptance of safeguards, it would be impossible to verify the completeness of the nuclear inventory declared in 1992.

The Assembly had before it a draft resolution which would, among other things, urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate immediately with the IAEA in fully implementing the safeguards agreement and to allow the Agency access to all relevant information and locations. It would also express grave concern over the country's failure to discharge its safeguards obligations. The People's Republic denounced the draft as "an insidious political offensive aimed at increasing international pressure" against it. Adoption of the resolution would only create complications in the bilateral talks with the United States. The Assembly was scheduled to act on the draft tomorrow.

Also yesterday, in a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly invited the South Pacific Forum to participate as an observer in its work.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warmly welcomed the broad agreement reached in talks in Geneva between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States on a range of nuclear and other issues. He expressed the hope that the agreement would pave the way to the normalization of the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

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The Secretary-General also welcomed the peace accord which was initialled in Amman yesterday by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Majali of Jordan. Their agreement on the difficult issues of water-sharing and borders represented another milestone in the Middle East peace process, he said. It offered fresh hope that a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the region would be achieved in the near future.

* * *

The Human Rights Committee yesterday began its fifty-second session in Geneva. The Committee, composed of 18 independent human rights experts, monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the 127 countries that have ratified it.

In an opening statement, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ibrahima Fall said the United Nations would benefit from the Committee's establishment of an assistance programme for Rwanda. He noted that that the Special Rapporteur on human rights in that country had already conducted two field missions. The Commission of Experts set up by the Security Council to examine grave rights violations in Rwanda had begun its activities, while the High Commissioner for Human Rights was fielding a team of observers.

During the session, the Committee will consider the state of civil and political rights in Nepal, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen and Libya. It will also examine communications from individuals alleging that their rights under the International Covenant have been violated.

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Action to support the family is an important part of the global development effort, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the General Assembly's International Conference on Families today. He said the United Nations must maintain the momentum generated by the International Year of the Family. Mechanisms for future action were already in place. The World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women would be held next year -- the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. The human family must be united in its dedication to sustainable development for all, he stressed.

Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) told the Conference that the United Nations was on the verge of crystallizing a development pattern centred on the human being. Its basic elements would include peace, sustained economic growth, environmental protection, social justice, democracy and good governance. By proclaiming 1994 as the International Year of the Family, the Assembly had reinforced the family's role as the fundamental learning place and practising ground of values, rights, responsibilities

UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1754
19 October 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General strongly condemns bomb attack on Israeli bus in Tel Aviv; hopes savage act of terrorism will not disrupt talks between Government of Israel and PLO.

+ Increased trade is essential for economic growth and development, and reinforces international peace and security, Secretary-General tells United Nations Trade Efficiency Symposium.

+ Several States reiterate opposition to United States economic embargo against Cuba, in report of Secretary-General.

+ Completion of Russian troop withdrawals from Baltic States would enhance stability in region, says Secretary-General; commends parties for demonstrating political will and spirit of compromise.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2.5 billion as of 15 October; $812 million owed to regular budget and $1.7 billion to peace-keeping.

+ Legal Committee begins discussion of measures to eliminate international terrorism; Russian Federation proposes global monitoring unit within United Nations Secretariat.

+ UNPROFOR Commander meets with Bosnian Vice-President to discuss violations of Mount Igman demilitarization agreement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned in the strongest possible terms today's bomb attack on an Israeli bus in Tel Aviv, in which more than 20 civilians were killed and dozens wounded. He extended his condolences to the bereaved families, and expressed the hope that the savage act of terrorism would not disrupt the negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

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Increased international trade is essential for economic growth and reinforces every dimension of development, according to the Secretary-General. In an address today to the ministerial segment of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, in Columbus, Ohio, he said trade also helped to enhance international confidence and trust and thus contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Symposium -- the first high-level United Nations conference hosted by the United States -- marked the beginning of a new partnership between the Organization, national governments, local government and the private sector, he continued. Trade was no longer a matter only of ports and railroads and airline routes; it had become electronic, and might soon be completely paperless. Economic globalization raised important questions for an international system based on sovereign States. However, the United Nations had been created to enable States to solve common problems, and had a development role set out in Article 55 of the Charter.

The Secretary-General noted that the Symposium aimed to reduce trade costs by targeting six areas: government controls, which could be excessive or inefficient; the availability of financial services; business information; transportation; telecommunications; and business practices, which meant global standards and transparency. The Trade Point concept could spearhead the effort to improve efficiency.

The United Nations was indispensable for coordinated action on a global scale, he stressed. It had convening power, extensive networks and a body of experts, and could help design initiatives, support strategies, and provide training and capacity-building assistance. However, a united commitment from government and business leaders was also needed to make trade efficiency a reality.

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A number of Member States have reiterated their support for General Assembly resolution 48/16, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", which was adopted in November 1993. Their views on the matter are contained in a report by the Secretary-General, dated 20 September, on the implementation of the resolution.

Mexico said it continued to abide by the resolution, stressing that it pursued non-discriminatory trade practices and did not recognize the extraterritorial application of domestic laws. Nicaragua rejected as a matter of principle economic and commercial embargoes as a means of applying political pressure, and maintained diplomatic relations with Cuba. Spain said it had never promulgated any laws in relation to Cuba which might have entailed a violation of the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, and freedom of trade and navigation.

The United Kingdom stressed its opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States embargo in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992. It was an offence for any person in the United Kingdom to comply with specified parts of the United States Cuban Assets Control Regulations. The United States said it had voted against resolution 48/16 as it pertained to what was essentially a bilateral issue and should not be the subject of multilateral consideration.

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The Secretary-General has commended Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation for resolving problems related to the presence of foreign forces in the Baltic States. In a report to the General Assembly dated 22 September, he said they had demonstrated a constructive attitude, political will and a spirit of compromise. The completion of the Russian troop withdrawals would enhance stability and the development of good relations and cooperation in the region.

However, there were still some points of concern, he continued. Estonia and Latvia had expressed anxiety regarding the fact that Russia had allegedly demobolized a significant number of officers in those countries, instead of repatriating them. They had also called attention to the environmental damage caused by the deployment of Russian troops on their territories. He reiterated his readiness to provide his good offices to facilitate the full implementation of the agreements reached by the parties, should they so wish.

* * *

As of 15 October, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.5 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $812 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.7 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $531 million to the regular budget and $453 million to the peace-keeping budget. The Russian Federation owed $28 million to the regular budget and $569 million to peace-keeping.

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The Sixth Committee (Legal) today began its consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism. Speakers highlighted the need for international cooperation to combat a resurgence of terrorism, with several proposing the establishment of an international database to coordinate information and provide technical advice. The Russian Federation, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said a global monitoring unit within the United Nations Secretariat could help States deal with political and legal issues relating to international terrorism.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and Austria, said an exchange of information and close cooperation would strengthen the ability of Governments to prevent terrorism and apprehend those responsible. However, all measures against terrorism must conform with international law, including human rights instruments. The Czech Republic opposed the convening of an international conference on terrorism, as it would be difficult to agree on a definition of terrorism and the conference could thus be be counterproductive. Intensified application of existing international conventions was the best way to deal with the problem.

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The Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, yesterday had discussions with Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic regarding the demilitarized zone around Mount Igman. A United Nations spokesman said the Bosnian Government had some 500 troops stationed within the zone in violation of the demilitarization agreement with the Bosnian Serbs.

That bilateral agreement was negotiated last year by UNPROFOR at the request of the Bosnian Government, the spokesman noted. He added that it had been largely honoured by the Bosnian Serbs.

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